

# **Baba Sy, the World Champion of 1963-1964 of 10x10 Draughts**



**Govert Westerveld  
Volume I**











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**Baba Sy, the World Champion of 1963-1964 of 10x10 Draughts -  
Volume I  
(c) Govert Westerveld**

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# DEDICATION

**I dedicate this work to Mr. Ndongo Fall of Senegal, eminent honorary member of the FMJD, for his help in preparing this book**



# PREFACE

This book should be considered a historical book, as it is the draughts career of Baba Sy, a prominent Senegalese player. He was able to be the best in the world without reading any books. He had a natural talent and was a self-made man thanks to the game of checkers. I have witnessed the achievements of the great Baba Sy and I have been in the early stage of great players such as Harm Wiersma and Ton Sijbrands, and predicted in 1964 that they would be future world champions. So I know the mentality that one must have to succeed in this mind sport. Those who want to go into deep analysis of the games of Baba Sy need to buy the book of Ton Sijbrands (Baba Sy, le Grand Livre de Baba Sy, 1989).

Both draughts (checkers) and chess help develop confidence in our abilities. The strategies we learn in the game of draughts can be applied to business to ensure success. I taught draughts to the son of my previous Dutch boss in his early years. Now, after 40 years, he confessed that this game has helped him a lot in his business. He migrated to United States when he was young and his flower business is today among the best in the country.

The game of draughts teaches us to anticipate and predict our future business visions. We learn the pros and cons of a play, just as in business life where we also have to make decisions. We learn to apply our judgement and not the criteria of the people around us. The vast majority of people are influenced by the visions of others. So much so that the decision to favor the group is often the wrong one. This is

done because of fear of failure, feeling ridiculed, or being the dissenting member of the group. In the game of draughts no one will help you with your next move, you have to do it yourself and you are solely responsible for your actions.

Draughts teach us to fight, every point counts. Sometimes a game lasts over six hours. In this way you learn patience and to draw or win games that seemed to be completely lost. This eagerness to fight and patience come very handy in business where we have to prepare a commercial contract with our clients and be patient.

The mentality we acquire from draughts is nothing less than the creation of a competitive spirit and the desire to achieve goals. Competitive people can make more sales than their peers, work longer hours, stimulate creative ideas, and develop products and quality services. In other words the game of checkers gives you a competitive spirit and the desire to always improve and be better than others. You never have enough, you need to be better and you will never surrender to achieve it. With this attitude one undoubtedly makes small businesses be leading companies in the sector.

My 40-year stay in Spain and my research on the Moors permits me to know more about the Islamic custom. And so I am now in a much better position than 40 years ago to comment properly on the life of Baba Sy.

## **Acknowledgements and thanks**

My thanks to Mr. Ndongo Fall of Senegal. He supplied me with interesting data about Baba Sy and his family. In this sense I cannot forget the long correspondence I had with Mr. Jean Marc Ndjofang and Malick Niang. My thanks to Hanco Elenbaas, Fred Ivens, Jan de Ruiter, and many others. To Ed Holstvoogd who despite his serious



illness found the strength to send text and photos in the past. I owe a lot to Dr. Diego Rodriguez of France, since he provided me with lots of photographs of Baba Sy's championships in France. We talked a lot on the phone about Baba Sy whom he met personally with Michael Hisard. I hope not to forget anyone so THANK YOU all. "

**Govert Westerveld**

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# CHAPTER 1

## Baba Sy in Donaye

We know a lot about Baba Sy's life in Holland, but very few people of this country could tell me about his stay in Senegal. According to the people there were two different lives and Baba didn't talk much about his activity in this faraway African country. This was the motive for his secret life in this country. Baba Sy always said when in Holland that he was born in Mpal, a town which belonged to the department of Dagana in the St. Louis region north of Senegal. However, we are told by his sister Moukel Ali Sy that officially, or better said really, Baba Sy was born in 1935 in Donaye, a town that belonged to the department of Podor. However, there is no certificate to verify this birth anywhere. This situation changed when Baba went to study French in the town of Mpal where he happened to come into possession of a birth certificate.

Donaye was in those years a small town and recently only had a little bit more than 1,181 inhabitants. That is, at the time of Baba Sy's birth this town had fewer inhabitants, probably no more than 500. All were of the Toucouleur ethnicity, Baba Sy was also from this group. All of them were classified by a strict hierarchy system of classes and casts based on parentage<sup>1</sup>. In the upper part of this hierarchy were the Torobés (TooroodBe), the nobles. These were powerful men with political, economic, and religious powers.

*Torobés in fulfude* means the one who prays with us. They are descendants of ancient aristocrats and that's one of Usmans Dan Fodio; many have interbred with Hausas and the Toucouleur (tukolor). They settled down, but retain their lands and numerous herds, they use vassals and servants to take care of them. They possess many riches and maintain contact with the western world. The women from this place do not sell their dairy products directly, but to an intermediary.

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<sup>1</sup> **SUW, Abdoulaye** (1983). Les contraintes au development de la petite exploitation agricole dans la moyenn valle de fleuve Senegal. Le cas de Donaye.

The village of Donaye was in 2000 made up of 54% of TooroodBe, 8.5% of SubalBe, 9% of WayilBe, 18% of MaccuBe, 2.5% of GallunkoBe, 6.75% of Peul<sup>2</sup>.



**The Omarian mosque de Donaye, the birthplace of Baba Sy**  
**Foto: [www.podor-rivegauche.com](http://www.podor-rivegauche.com)**

Donaye, the original name of the town, is situated on the left side of the Senegal River, on the island of Morphil, 9km above the city of Podor. It is a historic town where the Hadji Omar Tall organized several of his sermons. Donaye has a famous omariense mosque constructed around 1870 that is today a national historical monument.

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<sup>2</sup> **TARRIÈRE-DIOP, C.** 1995. "Dynamique sociale des GIE, village de Donaye (département de Podor, communauté rurale de Guédé)." in *Nianga, laboratoire de l'agriculture irriguée en moyenne vallée du Sénégal*, P. Boivin, I. Dia, A. Lericollais, J.-C. Poussin, C. Santoir, et S.M. Seck (Ed.), ORSTOM, éditions, págs. 339-374.

The village of Donaye was abandoned by its inhabitants in 1999 as a result of its disastrous flooding. Today it is a jewel for tourists. With the ancient cities of the neighboring Mauritania Donaye is characterized by its small mosque, the cemetery, hundreds of Adobe houses partially in ruins, narrow streets between houses, tall trees and the river's edge.



**The abandoned cemetery of Donaye.  
We observe headstones with Arabic writing.  
Foto: [www.podor-rivegauche.com](http://www.podor-rivegauche.com)**

The Arabs have a commercial port in Donaye, a place that was an ancient commercial center for rubber and slaves. Seeing its proximity to Mauritania it's not strange that their neighbors spoke Arabic. Even in the abandoned cemeteries of Donaye we can see headstones with Arabic writing. In Holland more than one person has told me that Baba did not speak Arabic, but his sister Moukel Ali Sy has informed me that Baba did speak Arabic and knew the koran perfectly.



**The narrow streets of Donaye**  
**Photo: [www.podor-rivegauche.com](http://www.podor-rivegauche.com)**

One boss, one story, and one drama in 1999 when the rains of January devastated the scarce resources of a community, which caused the abandonment of the homes in the city and thus destroyed its 500 years of history. The floods, which were thought to be a thing of the past due to construction of some dams, forced the majority of people to flee by night the traditional older homes, constructed in the high part of Donaye. Later the population was forced to stay permanently in Taredji, a city about 12 kilometers away inland. In this case on a stretch of the national highway, in temporary construction, in tents and

shacks. The adobe houses partially destroyed by the rains offer an impressive view of the towns of Mauritania. The streets in Donaye are narrow, just as they are in the Arabic towns<sup>3</sup>.



**A narrow street in Blanca (Murcia, Spain), formerly habited by Muslims**

Donaye had much of the famous villages of Mauritania known for their architecture using earth or rocks. The visitor on foot discovers with fascination parts of the walls, the beautiful elements of the architecture, its majestic trees situated in the middle of empty spaces

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<sup>3</sup> **WESTERVELD, Govert** (1997). Historia de Blanca, lugar más islamizado de la región murciana, años 711-1700". ISBN 84-923151-0-5 - 900 páginas. Prólogo del Prof. Juan Torres Fontes - Universidad de Murcia

**WESTERVELD, Govert** (2001). Blanca, "El Ricote" de Don Quijote: expulsión y regreso de los moriscos del último enclave islámico más grande de España, años 1613-1654". ISBN 84-923151-1-3. 1004 páginas. Prólogo del Prof. Dr. Francisco Márquez Villanueva - Universidad de Harvard – USA.



where more than one person stays under the shade to enjoy a good nap, and it is also a place with a marvelous view of the river.



**Another visit to the Omani mosque of Donaye**  
**Photo: [www.podor-rivergauche.com](http://www.podor-rivergauche.com)**

Today it is a special attraction especially for walking enthusiasts: hundreds of houses in ruins to the side of a river filled with beautiful trees, near a traditional cemetery, and a small Omani mosque that has survived and is still filled with believers. The mosque of Donaye resisted the flood and is still a place for worship by its visitors. The families left behind are very welcoming and the elderly are ready to visit their small mosque. Although the mosque is not in the best of conditions and in need of restoration to avoid being ruined by the rains, it is a jewel of Omani architecture. As previously mentioned, it was constructed in 1870.

The Arab influence of Donaye is noted not only in the narrow streets and form of house construction, but also for the news from its webpage [www.cridem.org](http://www.cridem.org), which shows the mosque and the following comments:

Donaye est un petit village situe dans la région de Brakna moughata de Boghe arrondissement de Darel Barka. Ses habitants, victimes des déportations 1989, étaient depuis vingt ans en terre étrangère, le Senegal. Aujourd'hui tres heureux de retrouver leur mere patrie, la Mauritanie. Vingt ans d'endurance, d'attente, l'heureux jour, c'est a dire le jour ou ces habitants fouleraient la patrie. En effet, trois contingents ont quitte tout récemment le Senegal pour s'installer dans leur ancien site Donaye Reo connu sous le nom de Hammasall, patriarche qui fonda ce bourg il y a ce plus de 2 siècles. Ces populations ont bénéficie d'une visite de du hakem de Boghe accompagné par un homme d'affaire du coin qui a eu des entretiens avec les populations qui lui ont fait part de leurs inquiétude devant l'occupation abusive de leurs anciennes terres. Et le hakem de répondre que rien ne leur appartenait et qu'ils étaient en état gazra parce qu'ils ne détiennent aucun document leur permettant de dire que le lieu leur appartient, mais notre hakem est daltonien d'esprit et oublie qu'en Mauritanie aucune terre traditionnelle possède des papiers qu'il évoque.

This news merits an observation, as before 1989 there were many people of Toucouleur in Mauritania with their own commercial contacts who lived on the other side of the river. During the 1989 disturbances between Mauritania and Senegal many of those expelled from Mauritania established themselves on the side of the Senegal River. One of those establishments was the town of Donaye.

The Arabs lived in stone houses and in smaller numbers in straw cottages. This Arab influence is seen in some of the houses in Donaye. Adobe is made from wet clay, sand, and straw, and available at a low cost anywhere. Adobe has advantages - the ability to be shaped into manageable round forms of good aspect and the comfort that it offers as the houses are cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

We have observed that Hammassall was another name for Donaye for the Mauritanians, but there was yet another name. That of Coq<sup>4</sup> and

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<sup>4</sup> **ADANSON, Michel** (1759). A voyage to Senegal: the isle of Goreé, and the river Gambia. Londres.

Página 316 dice: "But what struck me most, was the shooting of monkeys, which I enjoyed within six leagues this side of Podor, on the lands to the fouth of Donai, otherwise called Coq;"

isle of Coq<sup>5</sup> in the XVIII century. When this city was filled with green monkeys, the French commercial interest in XIX was vested in rubber from the acia obtained by the slaves. The Arabs had a commercial port in Danoye that used to be an ancient commercial center for rubber from the acacia (*Acacia Adansonii*) and the sale of slaves<sup>6</sup>.



**Ruins of the Donaye houses.**  
Photo. [www. Podor-rivergauche.com](http://www.Podor-rivergauche.com)



**Ruins of the old Muslim in Blanca (Murcia) Spain**

Baba Sy's father had to leave Donaye. We do not know the reasons, but by looking at the situation of the eighties we see that at least 77% of Donaye's population left to go elsewhere. They were men between 20 and 45 years of age who still had enough strength to start again elsewhere and the vast majority had sought a new life in Dakar. Once established there, many regularly sent money to Donaye to help their families<sup>7</sup>.

The Toucouleur people spoke Pulaar, but their language is not called Toucouleur. Pulaar is a Fula language spoken mainly as a first language by the Fula and Toucouleur (or Toorobe) people in the Senegal River Valley traditionally known as Futa Tooro. The other language spoken by them is the Wolof, the trade language of Senegal.

<sup>5</sup> **ADANSON, Michel** (1781). *Histoire naturelle du Senegal*. Coquillages. Pág. 177

<sup>6</sup> *La Terre et la vie*, En: *Revue des Sciences Naturelles appliques*, volumen 41, 1894, pág. 134

<sup>7</sup> **SUW, Abdoulaye** (1983). *Les contraintes au developement de la petite exploitation agricole dans la moyenne valle du fleuve senegal*. Le cas de Donaye.



**Ruins of Donaye houses**  
**Photo: [www.podor-rivegauche.com](http://www.podor-rivegauche.com)**

Many men from Toucouleur have a basic knowledge of Arabic due to Islamic Koranic instruction they received in their youth. The Toucouleur village is Muslim at heart and they are known as "defenders of the faith". It was for "holy war" that religious leaders from Toucouleur exported Islam to most of west Africa.



**Abandoned Houses of Donaye**  
**Photo: [www.podor-rivegauche.com](http://www.podor-rivegauche.com)**

The principles of Islam are integral cultural values that permeate all aspects of society in Toucouleur. It is also said that to have been born Toucouleur is to proudly have been born Muslim. However, Islamic practices are inextricably mixed with traditional animistic ideas and hidden folk rituals. Divination, witchcraft, and magic (often practiced by an Islamic cleric - the midibbo) are widespread. Amulets and talismans are manufactured and sold by religious leaders. Belief in *Baraga* (supernatural power) is common and thought to possess

religious leaders, and for this reason they are sought by the miracles that can be achieved.

Man's traditional beliefs in nature and in his destiny after death play an important role in the Toucouleur life's perspective; the psychic stratum, in which they have been included, is tenacious. The impersonal vital force *fittandu* is death absorbed in deity, while the shadow of the soul *Belu* is the personal spirit subject to the reward in heaven or punishment in hell. The distinction between these two spirits, however, isn't as clear as one could expect, and many times they are confused.

Islam hasn't brought about any significant change in the psychological attitude towards magic. The supernatural power, or *Baraka*, can be possessed by a clergy of name or can simply emanate from him, which mirrors a strong Islamic Berber influence. The town of Toucouleur is afraid of evil spirits. Certain actions are taboo to avoid offending spirits, and trinkets and talismans – pouches of leather in which pieces of paper that carry verses from the Koran have been sown – are worn on the upper part of the arm or around the neck or waist to defend against all kinds of evil. In the valley of the Senegal River the manufacturing and sale of talismans and trinkets is the exclusive matter of Toucouleur clergies. Unfortunately even the high price of these talismans can never buy peace of mind or total security. Witchcraft persists despite Islam. In the Futa each town has its own family of renowned witches. Those from Toucouleur believe that the substance of witches is inherited through women, but doesn't necessarily affect all children.

People also make uninhibited use of exorcists who can act as herbalists and rainmakers. The divination flourishes with people more worried about the power of the fortune teller than with the Islamic prescription, in fact, in most cases the fortune teller is a Muslim clergy.

The spiritual authority is centered in the *marabouts* –religious leaders and masters. It is through these men that the people's lives are controlled. From the crib to the grave a person lives in the marabouts'

shadow. Be it to give a name at birth, for education, celebration of a marriage, burial, healing, or cursing, the marabout is always present. Those from Toucouleur differ from their clergy according to how worshipping, teaching, specialization of study, interpretation of the canonic law, or leadership of the parish is to be directed.



**The Hadji Omar Tall**

The common words for clergy is *midibbo*, the master is the *tyerno*, the jurist and the priest are the *fodyo*. The chief of the parish is often the highest administrative official in town, and is called *almami*. Some of the most famous marabouts (Muslim masters) are native to the area of Podor in the valley of the Senegal River. However, their part in the land of the supernatural makes a "power of encounter" in a way they can show the Gospel. In the past those from Toucouleur had associated with some from Sufi *tariqas* (brotherhoods). In the beginning of the XIX century the tariqa Shadhiliya introduced himself among them for the clergy Fulani, Ali as-Sufi. Ultimately those from Toucouleur approved of the tariqa Tijaniya instead of El-Hadj Omar Tall. The practices, tendencies, and devotion vary very much inside this tariqa and depend on the formation of its clergies.

## The Hadji Omar Tall

The Hadji Omar Tall and his Taliban were heroes for the Islam cause in the XIX century, the crusaders against the infidels. Tall's original family lived in the villages of Halwar, Gede, and Donnay in the province of Toro. Omar Tall had in 1846 an interview in Donaye with M. Caille<sup>8</sup>, Senegal's acting governor, and exposed his points of view: to pacify Senegal, reestablish security and commerce; he received magnificent gifts from the governor, as well as from the European merchants of Podor.



**The Situation of Podor, a town 10 kilometers of Donaye**

According to the current caliph of the Wouro Mahdiyyou town with the name of Thierno Djibril Apha Bâ, the founder of the marabout villa Ahmadou Hamet Bâ<sup>9</sup> (Seydina Limamoul Mahdiyyou) had fought the Yihad (holy war) only once. This was in Donaye where he followed

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<sup>8</sup> DELAFOSSE, Maurice (1912). Aut.-Senegal Nîger. L'histoire. Pág. 307

<sup>9</sup> Classmate o The Hadji Oumar Tall (1797-1664), founder of the Toucouleur empire, in the XIX century.



the invaders. By surprise they organized transfers to take over livestock and take populations as hostages to this place fifteen kilometers of Wuro Mahdiyou. Disgusted by these barbaric acts the marabout Ahmadou Hamet Bâ (1782) organized his troops to defend Donaye. One day he had defeated the invaders, recovered the livestock, and went back to his place of origin.



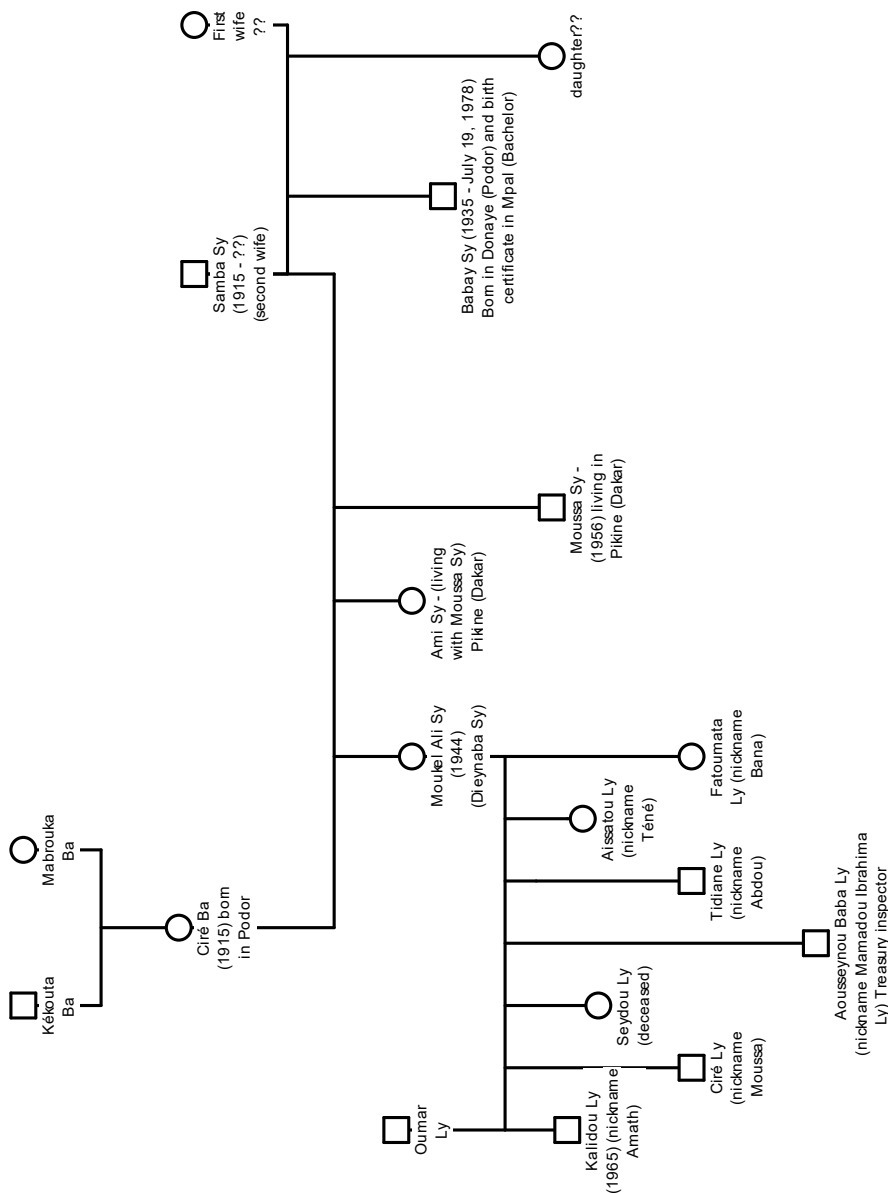
**Donay's pottery, traditionally an Arab profession.**





**Fishing in Donaye**

Baba Sy's Family Tree



Donaye est un village historique du pays toucouleur. Il est remarquable par son authenticité malgré de graves dégâts à la suite d'inondations. Il est situé dans une boucle paisible du fleuve Sénégal. Le meilleurs accueil est réservé aux visiteurs.

Un site d'interprétation de la vie villageoise vous permettra d'appréhender le quotidien des habitants de Donaye.

Vous pourrez visiter le village accompagnés et prendre des photos dans le cadre d'un respect réciproque.

Des produits issus de la vie quotidienne ou de la production locale vous seront présentés à des prix «équitables», notamment des canaris, poteries traditionnelles.

La magnifique mosquée omarienne atteste d'un riche passé et d'une histoire encore très présente dans la tradition orale.



## Donaye

À la rencontre de la tradition Toucouleur  
Sa mosquée omarienne classée

SÉNÉGAL



# CHAPTER 2

## Baba Sy in Mpal

Baba Sy was born in July 1935 in the town of Donaye, department of Podor, and there is not any birth certificate of it<sup>10</sup>. Baba in his younger years went to Mpal near St. Louis (former capital of Senegal) to study French. This was the basis on which he could get his birth certificate in Mpal (Dagana), department in the region of Saint Louis, north of Senegal<sup>11</sup>.

His father had two wives<sup>12</sup>, one of them died. Baba Sy had 3 sisters and 2 brothers. His youngest brother was six years old and the only one who would go to school thanks to Baba Sy's money<sup>13</sup>. Baba Sy's father was dedicated to cultivation of peanuts in Mpal. About Mpal, which is 200km from Dakar, we truly know very little, but we do know that the cultivation of peanuts dates from far back in time, precisely from 1840. In this aspect it is interesting to know that because of the Convention of 1981 the entire coast of Senegal was declared French territory and the following year a second route into Senegal was opened. A few years later in 1885 the railroad was finished, connecting St. Louis with its natural port in the Gulf of Gorée. In the intervened region of Cayor there are several great population centers, like Mpal, surrounded by peanut plantations - Luga farther south and Mdand, the ancient capital of the Cayor kingdom.

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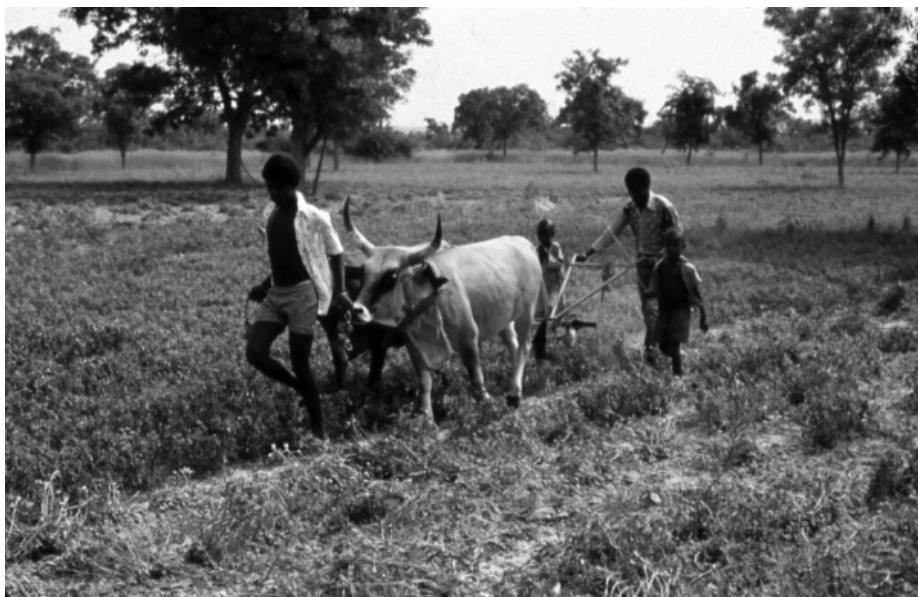
<sup>10</sup> Information obtained from Ndongo Fall and the family of Baba Sy.

<sup>11</sup> **FOKKINK, Henk** (1972). *Persvereniging van damredacteuren*.

<sup>12</sup> Islamic laws allow that one man can have up to four wives, as long as he guarantees looking after them and has their approval.

<sup>13</sup> **AUER, Hans** (1964). *Internationaal Brinta-Toernooi te Hoogezand*. Baba bemind Genie. In: *Revista "Panorama"*, 3, 13/28 enero. Texto copiado en *Revista "Het Damspel"*, 3, 1964, págs. 41-43.

So we see Baba Sy in his younger years helping his father with the cultivation of peanuts, whose work during those years with the burning heat was quite hard. During those years the wives of Baba Sy's father were assigned certain tasks in agriculture, while Baba Sy's father also had his specific job.



**Peanut Cultivation in Senegal's Mpal**

Also the wives were small vendors or merchants in the weekly market. In Sy's family it was his father's responsibility to take money home, while the wives were in charge of buying food with the money provided by their husband, preparing meals, washing the clothes, cleaning the house, bathing the children, or fetching water from the wells and seeking wood if they stayed in remote villages. Women there had significantly less education than men of similar ages. Most women only spoke Wolof and communication in French was not widespread among them. Even today there are still women working from dawn to dusk to get some money for their families, 200fr CFA per day is the equivalent of a third of a Euro. Hard times like those didn't allow our Baba to study at any school and the only thing he

could do was to memorize the Muslim religion, the Koran; it was always mandatory for all members of the community. Normally the afternoons would work for this, since in Mpal the afternoons were generally unproductive because of the heat outside.

Among the meals that our young Baba Sy enjoyed fish rice had the most important place, but there was a wide variety of dishes. Sitting on the floor around a huge dish is what happens during the meals in the heart of a family. Our Baba Sy ate rice and other foods with his hands.



#### **Eating with the Hands in Senegal is an Islamic Custom**

Eating with fingers, you risk burning them when dipping them in the rice, but it is just a matter of getting used to it. The Senegalese have a tactic for this: they take a handful of rice with their right hand, rub the hand against the wall of the dish, while kneading the rice between their fingers so it's grouped into one ball. Let's not forget that it's common among them that guests appear unexpectedly to have tea or share food. It is an Islamic custom that still leaves traces in Spanish customs from

“Valle de Ricote<sup>14</sup>”. If I go to a house there at lunch time or two in the afternoon, I will always be asked “Do you want to eat?” Logically they expect me to answer negatively and because of manners I should not accept the food, but this hospitality automatically comes from very far back, from the time in which the Valle de Ricote was ruled by the Islamic religion.

The meal used to consist of a main dish of rice, millet, or corn on which they served vegetable sauce, meat (Muslims do not eat pork), poultry, fish, beans, milk, and sugar. Today usually a fruit dessert or yogurt is offered, but in the past there was no money for that. A popular dish is called *yassa* (rice and chicken covered with a sauce of onion rings and spices). Another one is *thiebou dien*, a rice and fish dish often eaten at lunch time. A traditional Wolof recipe is the *mbaxal-u-Saloum*, a sauce made from crushed peanuts, dried fish, meat, tomatoes, and spices, garnished with rice. Breakfast is usually served between 6 and 9 in the morning, lunch between 12 and 13:30, and dinner between 20 and 21:30. In the most conservative homes meals are eaten in separate groups established according to age and sex. Poverty in many rural and urban families did not always allow serving two meals a day and varying the food. They would often then be satisfied with a bowl of rice or millet with some fish, or a slice of meat which was divided among family members. So know that a well prepared dish was and is a privilege, a gift offered by the host as a sign

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<sup>14</sup> During many years I have studied the Islamic behavior of the Muslims in Valle de Ricote. The vast majority of Spaniards are descendants from them.

**WESTERVELD, Govert** (1997) Historia de Blanca, lugar más islamizado de la región murciana, años 711-1700. ISBN 84-923151-0-5 - 900 páginas. Prólogo Prof. Dr. Juan Torres Fontes - Universidad de Murcia

**WESTERVELD, Govert** (2001) Blanca, "El Ricote" de Don Quijote: expulsión y regreso de los moriscos del último enclave islámico más grande de España, años 1613-1654. ISBN 84-923151-1-3. 1004 páginas. Prólogo Prof. Dr. Francisco Márquez Villanueva - Universidad de Harvard – USA

**WESTERVELD, Govert** (2007). Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Ana Félix y el morisco Ricote del Valle de Ricote en “Don Quijote II” del año 1615. (capítulos 54, 55, 63, 64 y 65). Editor: Academia de Estudios Humanísticos de Blanca (Valle de Ricote). ISBN – 10: 84-923151-5-6 – 384 págs. Dedicado al Prof. Francisco Márquez Villanueva de la Universidad de Harvard

of hospitality, which is necessary to appreciate even if sometimes our eating habits are very different.



### **Cultivating Peanuts in Mpal**

The concept of family is very different from that in the Netherlands. In Senegal a home can have grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, children, etc. living together in a collection of huts on land. There are marabouts that have more than 150 people living in their territory.





**Preparing the Food**



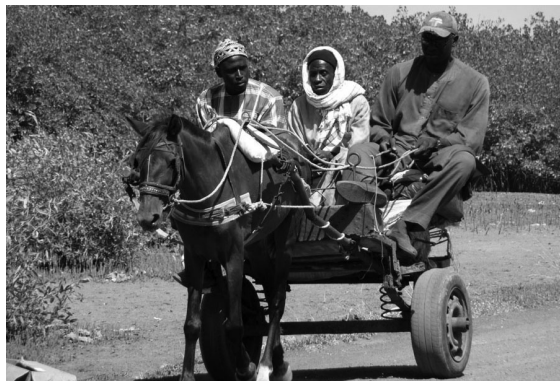
**A Fenced Village**



**A woman looking for wood**



**Folk dance in a Village**



**Transportation in Senegal**



**Other Type of Transportation**

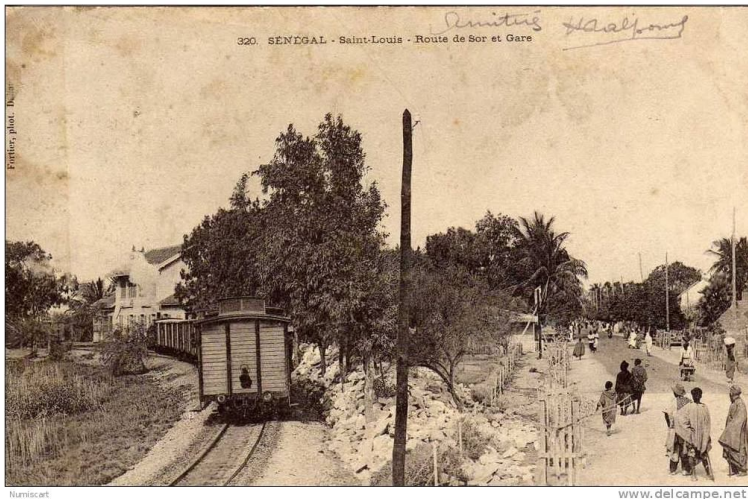


**Cabinetmaking, one of Baba Sy's professions**



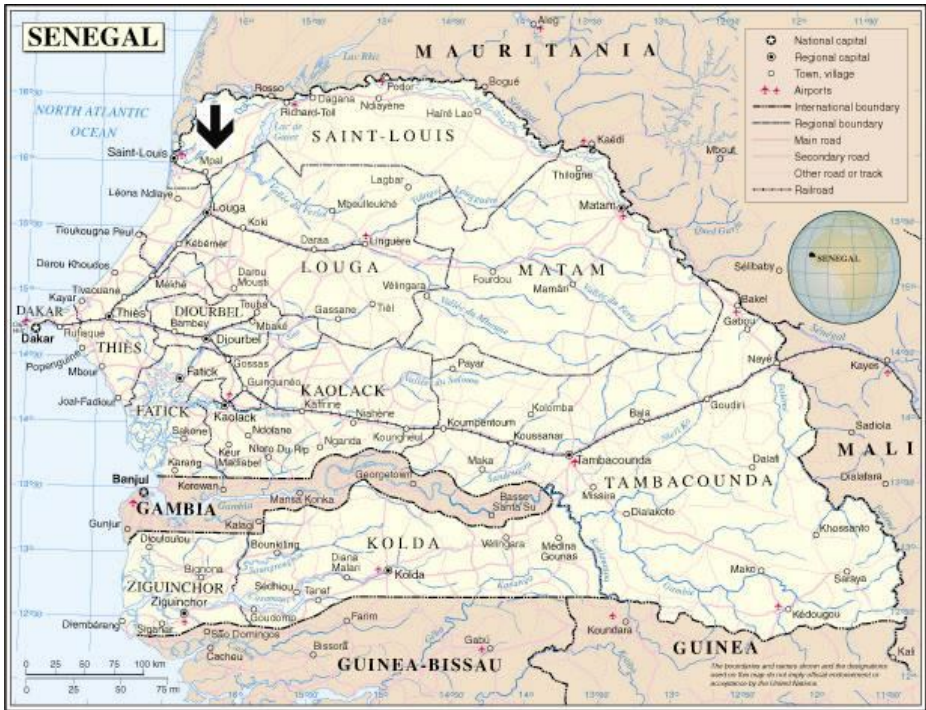
**Tea Ceremony**

For Baba Sy's father the harvest of peanuts meant selling their peanuts directly to local buyers or trying to sell their peanuts in Dakar. Since Mpal had a railroad, a trip to Dakar was not so hard for the Sy family. This was the case in the past, as today the railroad is no longer a way of transportation for the travelers of Mpal. The N2 main road now serves buses and cars to other places, but also for transportation of cars carried by donkeys.



**Train transportation to the port of Dakar**

When Baba Sy was still very young, his father moved to Dakar to cultivate peanuts near Dakar. His father had traveled to Dakar more than once to organize his best businesses there and decided to leave Mpal, everything under the supervision of a marabout.



**An Arrow indicates the place of Mpal**

The cultivation of peanuts is very old in Senegal. Initially it was planned for local consumption. Some of the peanut fields were harvested for artisanal production of oils and use in the manufacture of traditional soaps. North of Senegal, Mpal is located in the region and the province of St. Louis, as well as in the jurisdiction of Rao. This rural community is located about 30km from St. Louis. Mpal is divided into three homogeneous zones: the Zone of Diéri - agricultural vocation; the Thiagnaldé zone for pastoral vocation, and a commercial zone in the center of two other zones and located along the national highway.





**Mpal's Main Avenue**



**Grilled meat in Mpal**



**Mpal's Marketplace**



**Fish Selling in Mpal**



**Animal sale in Mpal**



**Carbón sale in Mpal**

It's funny, but generally the Wolof are the ones who practice agriculture. This activity is practiced by 60% of the population, while the other group, the Peulhs, are traditionally the sheep breeders. Baba Sy's family who practiced agriculture by cultivating peanuts belonged

therefore to the Wolof group also called Volofo. Its language is spoken in Senegal, Gambia, and Mauritania and it is the native language of the Wolof ethnic group. This language is spoken in Senegal by at least four million people of the Wolof ethnic group and by four more million in Senegal as a second language.

As well as in India, in Senegal there are Castes. The social organization of the Wolof is formed by a hierarchical caste system that, although to a lesser extent compared to last, is rather rigid and discourages marriages between members of different castes. The Wolof is socially divided into three classes: free, slaves, and artisans. Free people were the nobles, farmers, the latter landowners and bourgeois. The artisans (blacksmiths, musicians, etc.) were considered a lower class as well as the descendants of the slaves, but today things are changing in Senegal. More than once I had wondered why Baba Sy had so much dignity, courtesy, elegance, and self-control. This had to do with his caste. The Wolof have a complex code of conduct based on their social status. His caste forced him to maintain higher social norms and expected him to maintain self-control at all times and great dignity to show himself as courageous and generous, avoiding dishonoring his family and that he fulfills all his religious obligations. On one hand it is normal in the Senegalese culture that people give thanks in an exaggerated or extended way. The Wolof used to have women with great natural beauty. Their elegant dresses and sophisticated hairstyles resemble many of our Spanish villages where women are beautiful, extremely clean, and always dress very elegantly. On the other hand the Wolof had a village occupied by several hundred people living in houses made from mud and reeds. Each house was fenced so that the family would have privacy. In the heart of the village (as in the Moorish villages) you can find the mosque and the square where public reunions and important events such as dances, wrestling matches, and other parties took place.

The elders in the care of their families are very much respected. It must be remembered that in families in Senegal there is a strict hierarchy that without the permission of the oldest person of the family one can't marry or go to school. The families are very large since men

can have four wives. From generation to generation the oldest member of the family is designated as superior elder or village chief. It's not about administrative things nor laws, but consultations and discussions with the villagers. The elders of the families gather regularly in the village square under a big tree where everything is discussed with knowledge during the consultation: announcements of marriages, the organization of events, crop management, labor and distribution of the fields, and the desire for a good atmosphere among the villagers. Every event, no matter how small or big, and any news is analyzed and passed to the superior elder, so that everything is perfectly organized. Similar discussions found place under a tree in the Ricote Valley during the Islamic period.

We have seen Baba Sy several times during his Islamic prayers with a collar and black stone. I have also observed in the XVI century the customs of the marabouts that also exist among the Wolof who believe in the existence of good and evil spirits. This way each marabout town had its healer and witch, and in the towns of Wolof we see healers and witches. It was very normal that the Spanish marabouts often carried amulets to protect themselves from damage that spirits could do to them, and in case of the Wolof we see the same - they carried their amulets.

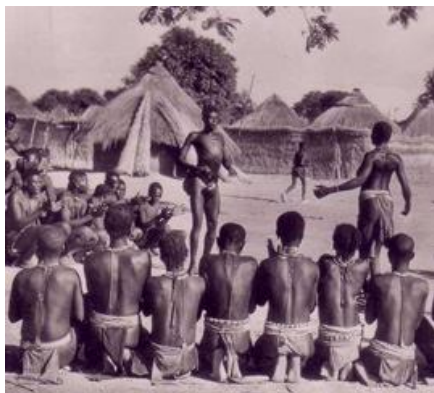


**Transport of peanuts**



**Sowing of peanuts**





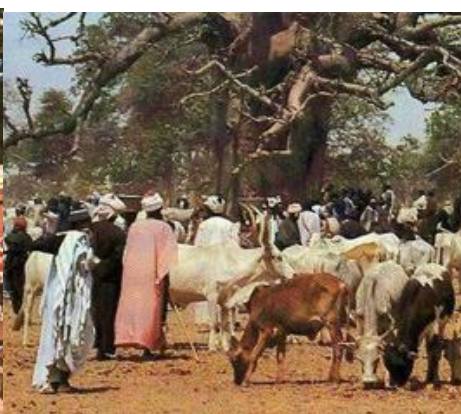
**The dances of the village**



**The head as a transport medium**



**Market for women**



**Market for men**

Baba Sy used to have a collar (rosary) of prayer with him of ninety-nine corals and a black Stone for praying. Baba Sy was a devoted Muslim; he never missed a prayer, even during competitions. The black stone Baba Sy used is the symbol of the thunder of lightning that falls to the sea because of the rain; the fishermen are those who bring it. A Muslim before prayer must do his ablutions, which means washing a part of his body with water. If there's no water to wash in, he can do it with sand or the black stone Baba Sy carried that

symbolized the thunder of lightning.

Learning the Koran is an obligation of each Muslim. It's not necessary to convert into a marabaout (although it is desired), but to learn the basis to fulfill their obligations towards Islam, including prayer. But learning the Koran is often the apparition of a true formation to "discipline" the students, making them "humble", the first demanded quality for any applicant of the knowledge of Koran.



### **Study of the Koran**

One of the five requirements for any Muslim is prayer. In the Islamic religion one must pray five times a day, at identified times. Men must kneel with their face towards the Mecca and facing the floor, and repeat certain prayers. That is a ritual instead of being personal communication with God. Some use a collar of prayer with ninety-nine beads that represent the ninety-nine names of God that reveal His character.



Watching the great influence of Malick Sy in Mpal through his disciple the Hadji Rawane Ngom it is to be supposed that the latter had taught Baba Sy to memorize the song of Taïssir which is none other than the El Hadj Malick Sy poem written in Arabic and regrouping the names of God<sup>15</sup>. Apart from the Black Stone Baba Sy had with him, the Black Stone of Kaab is also known in Islam. The Black Stone is, according to tradition, an aerolite that the angel Gabriel (Yibril) delivered to Abraham (Ibrahim). It is said that it *descended to earth whiter than milk, but the sins of Adam's offspring turned it black*. Abraham and his son Ismael (Ismail) placed it in the oriental corner when they finished building the new Kaaba. It must be kissed with unction, but never with adoration, by all pilgrims who get access to it.

### Donaye and Mpal: the two very important towns in the life of Baba Sy

Mahoma kissed it and said: *I don't forget you're a rock and cannot do me wrong or right*. A silver ring surrounds it. It is also known as the stone of Allah.

The rural community of Mpal of about 15,000 inhabitants has an old mosque, but even though the building is pretty small, it's absolutely magnificent. It is a very religious town and in it there was a great

<sup>15</sup> **SAMSON, Fabienne** (2003). Les marabouts de l'islam politique: le Dahiratoul Moustarchidina Wal Moustarchidaty un mouvement néo-confrérique sénégalais. Pág. 50

marabout that died and was called The Hadj Rawane Ngom<sup>16</sup>, the oldest companion of Hadji Malick Sy<sup>17</sup>. Since in the following years we saw Baba Sy in Dakar, it is supposed that his family left the town of Mpal in search of better fortune in the capitol. The job of women from sunrise to sundown in Mpal gives little money and malnutrition to children. That was probably what motivated Sy's father to decide to search for a better place in the world for himself and his son Baba. Baba Sy memorized the Koran in his younger years from the marabout The Hadji Rawane Ngom. It's very important to remember that Baba Sy belongs to a distinguished marabou family (marabout).

But the fact that nowadays we continue receiving illegal cayucos to the shores of Spain, full of Senegalese most of whom are of Wolof ethnicity and in search of a job, it implies that part of its population isn't doing very well. Many of these clandestine immigrants are only 15 year olds and in many cases their families have sold sheep, furniture, and other belongings to pay the organized mafia the 1.000 euros of the trip. They carry their amulets gotten from a marabout (Muslim religious leader) that prevents anything bad from happening to them unless Allah decides otherwise. The marabout has also told them that, "to recite the name of Allah a hundred times each time they found danger during the journey". The instructions of the marabout have been pretty clear: "when you arrive in Spain, don't forget your religion and, above all, remember the poverty you're leaving behind". The message is clear; they have to send money back to their parents and the marabout. These kids' stories show that their parents and local religious leaders have pushed them to ship in a journey overseas of 2,000 kilometers, through which many others have lost their lives. The Spanish government has them lodged in emergency centers, booths, and tents, offering them Spanish classes and teachings in activity workshops. The children are aware that their parents and brothers have pawned whatever little they had to pay for their tickets. And that they

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<sup>16</sup> With appreciation to Malick Niang de Dakar.

**NDIAYE, Mansour Bouna** (1986). Panorama politique du Senegal, ou, Les mémoires d'un enfant du siècle. Pág. 15

<sup>17</sup> **MBAY, Ravane** (2003). Pensée et actino: T. Vie et oeuvre. Pág. 762

have to sacrifice themselves to send them money as quickly as possible. That's why they get impatient and repeat over and over: "We haven't come to study, but to work". It's not easy to judge from Europe the reasons why more and more Senegalese are risking their lives for their children in a dangerous voyage to the Canary Islands, a Spanish territory. But there is certain parallelism between their stories and the tales of foreign travelers. Those who, a century ago, criticized Spanish farmers for mourning the death of a cow more than the death of a son. The implacable law of survival then prevailed in Spain: the cow was essential to feed the family, while the son was one more mouth to feed. The testimony of a 15 year-old is heartrending when asked about the reasons for his journey. His face darkens when he remembers the moment his father said goodbye at the door of their house in Dakar. "I was very scared and only crying, because it was the first time ever I was going to be alone", he says in a whisper. "My father was telling me: 'You have a family behind and must leave to help us. You mustn't forget about your religion either ". Others assert that when they get a job, they will send money regularly to the marabouts. Namely, of the 1,000 monthly Euros I would destine 500 to live on, send 400 to my family, and another 100 for the marabout. Many of them have done nothing more than beg for their marabout for as long as they can remember. Not only do they not feel any resentment against the religious man, but they have the intention of sending him money as soon as they can.



**Facilities “key in hand” of Agropol in Mpal built by EMEX**

I want to remember the Spanish government in this regard since the Spanish government has enormously helped the native town of Baba Sy, Mpal. The firm EMEX in collaboration with the Spanish state worked hard in this place through the *Central Hortícola y Matadero Frigorífico AGROPOL* Project which was completed in 2003. According to the temporary union of companies (UTE) EMEX<sup>18</sup> (that had as counterpart the Ministry of Agriculture and was financed by means of a FAD credit of 10,618,794 Euros linked and repayable) consisted in the "construction, supply, and assembly of two food complexes in the location of Mpal, close to Saint-Louis: a horticultural center including conditioning lines for the capacity of 33,000 TM per year of horticultural products and frigorific chambers with a useful storing volume of 7,350 m<sup>3</sup> and a frigorific slaughterhouse with a sacrifice line of bovine livestock of 24,000 heads per year and another equivalent of sheep and goats". Two security officers guard the fully equipped facility. In the parking space there were also 13 brand new frigorific trucks while the entire country suffered from lack of appropriate storage room and transport in the agricultural sector<sup>19</sup>. Unfortunately the facilities are still not working due to the Senegalese government being in deals with certain multinational and on the other side electricity still missing in the mentioned villa. The Senegalese government is also working on this issue.



**Facilities of “key in hand” of Agropol in Mpal built by EMEX**

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<sup>18</sup> [www.emex.com/agropol](http://www.emex.com/agropol)

<sup>19</sup> **RIVERO RODRIGUEZ, Juan** (2008). Revista Pueblos, número 35, diciembre.



In Senegal there are different interpretations of Islam. They are the denominated “religious brotherhoods”. The most important are the Xaadir (Qadiriyya), the Mourides, the Tidianes (Tivaouane), and the Layenes. The Wolof and Baba Sy belonged to them. They are mainly Tidianes (49% of the population), and it constitutes the most important brotherhoods of Senegal. Its disciples are the denominated Tidianes. However, the brotherhood of Marabou has the true economic and political power. We have noted that Baba Sy’s family is of Marabou.



**The sufi Malick Sy**

Well in the country of Wolof the credit for spreading the Sufi brotherhood Tidjani<sup>20</sup> was given to El-Hadij Malick Sy of Toucouleur origin and born in 1855 in Gaya near Mpal in the department of Dagana. In 1884 he moved to Saint Louis, then to Louga and Pire before instating his norms in Tivaouane in 1902, which under his influence became a center of education for the Islamic culture. With the death of Malick in 1922 his second son Seydi Ababacar Sy became the first caliph from 1922 until 1957.

Mansour Sy (1900-1957), his third brother, succeeded him and killed himself (even though he lived for four days after the assault). His successor Abdou Aziz Sy died on 14 September 1997 and was substituted by the current caliph Mansour Sy “Borom Daradji”.



**Babacar Sy                      Mansour Sy                      Abdoul Asís Sy                      Mansour Sy  
“Borom Daradji”**

Malick Sy created the Koranic schools, the basic units of the brotherhood, and the Zawyia, a sort of Popular University where he prepared an elite of spiritual leaders of Mouqadam, like The Hadj Amadou Cissé of Pire, serigne Rawane Ngom of Mpal, serigne Mayoro Sall of Nguick, serigne Alioune Bâ of Ngéoul, serigne Hady Touréd of Fass Touré, and some others.

<sup>20</sup> La Tijaniyya, une confrérie musulmane à la conquête de l'Afrique de Jean-Louis Triaud et David Robinson.





**The name of the caliph Ababacar Sy cannot be ignored even in modern life.**

It is convenient for us to know something else about the birthplace of Baba Sy. Where does Baba Sy's last name come from? We don't know for sure, but it's curious to observe that Baba Sy belonged to a very respectable family of marabou (marabout). Effectively there was a distinguished marabout in Mpal by the name of El Hadj Rawane Ngom. The topic is even more interesting when we find that El Hadj Rawane Ngom, the son of Aly Ngom<sup>21</sup>, was one of the faithful partners of Hadj Malick Sy and he had built him 3 mosques in St. Louis, Mpal, and Fass. With this data we clearly see the relation of Baba Sy to these two men, which means that it could be that Baba Sy was a distant relative of the Sy house and on the other side we see the

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<sup>21</sup> **SY, Malick y MBAYE, Ravane** (2003) Pensée et actino: toma Vie et Oeuvre. Pág. 106

influence in him of Malick Sy through the marabout of Mpal, El Hadj Rawane Ngom.

Childhood friend, disciple, and Mohammedan of the Hadj Malick Sy El Hadj Rawane Ngom was from Gandiol, precisely from Sinthiou Aly Ngom, corresponding to the district of the Dagana department, a village founded by his father. It was during a stay in the village of the holy man (Malick Sy) that they met each other and became inseparable. He joined Hadj Malick in Ndiarn where he finished his religious and spiritual formation. Installed later in Mpal he would be the representative of Hadj Malick Sy in Gandiol where he has disciples to this day.



**El Hadji Rawane Ngom**

Missing in 1955, his funeral prayer is presided by Serigne Babacar Sy. In memory of the prayer done by El Hadji Rawane Ngom to stop World War II the Caliph of Nepal's grandchildren gathered around the Youth Association "rawaniens" to celebrate nowadays the "Nianou ba war" (the prayer against war). The objective is to restore the quintessence of its history and religion to all its glory and all its pride to Senegal. This memorial of Hadji Rawane Ngom's prayer will enrich the cultural and religious agenda of the Rawaniena family.

During World War II the government of the colony through Dagain Carlos Jean, General Governor of that time, had requested the Hadji

Rawane Ngom prayers to put an end to the conflict. On February 25 1945 El-Hadji Rawane Ngom and the great holy men such as Ali Fall Sall, El Hadji Sene Mao, Thierno Datt Ibrahima Amadou Touré, Serigne Oumar Niang, El Hadji Salif Mbengue Bassirou Thiam, Massourang Sourang, etc., were found gathered at the Independence Plaza of that time and their formulated prayers were approved by the Lord. Every February 28 will be an opportunity for the grandchildren of Hadji Rawane Ngom to pray in the Independence Plaza of St. Louis, better known as Bayal Tendjiguène, to thank God for a better Senegal prosperous in peace and serenity.



**El Hadji Rawane Ngom**

Mpal, this village of about 15,000 inhabitants, stood out then for its spiritual and religious character and its reputation is big. Its radiation carries the imprint of its spiritual respected and marabout leader El Hadji Rawane Ngom who in 1910, when he came back from Santiou (Sinthiou) Aly Ngom at the age of 51, had made of the barracks a religious place, an Arab-Islamic home. Since 1910 reading of the Koran has been installed daily in the morning. And this habit will be perpetuated through centuries and has allowed the village of Mpal to pass the statute of the Ceddo to one of a religious city where everything is rigorously normed, based on a socially strong founded organization. Mpal harbors the mausoleum of El Hadji Rawane Ngom and his descendants and the mosque is a place of convergence for thousands of worshipers who come from all parts to celebrate the Maouloud (the birth of the prophet) every year. The area of Mpal has

14 koranic schools. In the family tree of the caliph Malick Sy (1855-1922) we see his descendants. One of them besides religion also got into politics and his political influence is seen when one of his descendants Cheikh Tidiane Sy is worried about the development of Mpal.

In Mpal the family of Mame Rawane Ngom has done its job. The Caliph of Mpal is now Rawane Ibn El-Hadji Lamine Ngom. Mpal, located close to Saint Louis and a village founded in the name of God Mame Rawane Ngom, celebrates regularly a night dedicated to the prophet Mohammed. In 2006 it was a unique celebration with the presence of the Minister of the Republic, Minister of State, and Guardian of seal, Cheikh Tidiane Sy for the first time as caliph of the family.



**Serigne Aviv Ngom Mpal**

He later thanked the family for its religious and educational function that it had in safeguarding of the religious pillars, but especially for the formation of hard-working and spiritual masses. Cementing his speech with verses of the Koran Cheikh Tidiane Sy had committed himself into taking measures to comply with certain requirements. Along with the regional governor Ass Sougoufara there were a lot of members present from the Regional Development Commission (RDC). The representative of the family Mame Ngom Rawane praised the work of

the Senegalese government and the attention it bestowed to its community.

In 2007 we see a relationship between the Minister of State Cheikh Tidiane Sy, descendant of Malick Sy (1855-1922), and the religious chief of the Holy Koran and cousin of the departed Mame Rawane Ngom of Mpal El Hadji Ndiaga Dièye. The religious chief who politically backs up the Cheikh Tidiane Sy is president of the Municipal Counsel of Rao and also president of the County of Dagana. His brother El-Hadji Habibou Dieye is the current president of the Commerce Chamber of Saint Louis. With all these we learn that the religious chiefs have great social and political power, and that they occupy key positions.

Now we understand why Baba Sy was such a religious man. He was educated in this sense by the great El Hadji Rawane Ngom. Nowadays Mpal is famous for its religious leader El-Hadji Rawane Ngom who has not only left his spiritual and religious seal in the community, but also in its market celebrated twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays. Mpal produces hibiscus, chickpea, millet, rice, peanuts, and other plants. The village continues to be poor at present, but there are changes.

The brotherhood of Mourides (31% of the population) is the most powerful, monopolizes the public transport, and controls agriculture – it's the first world producer of peanuts, the retail, import, and export. Namely the immigrants are a strong source of funding for the Senegalese brotherhoods. Besides being teachers of the Islam and animist priests the marabout are also chiefs of the 200,000 children beggars army between 5 and 17 years of age that wander many cities and towns of Senegal asking for money. They are the *petit talibés* or little students. In exchange for the money that these boys deliver the marabout teaches the Koran and the sacred words of Touba, the great marabout, guide of everyone. His figure is sacred and admired profoundly by the Muslim population.

# CHAPTER 3

## Some customs in Senegal

We've stated before that the family of Baba Sy belongs to a distinguished family of marabou (marabout) and that the Sufi Malick Sy was the true leader of the Sufi Senegal movement. Al-Hadj Malick Sy has played an important role in the adaptation of the transmission of science after the French conquest. Nowadays his disciples are found mainly north of Senegal. Therefore, I wouldn't be surprised if Baba Sy was one of his disciples and this could clear the kindness of Baba Sy's character.

It's interesting to have lived so many years in this heavenly landscape called the Valley of Ricote located in the region of Murcia (Spain), since now I understand the Senegalese better, where the Islamic religion dominates in 95% of the population and where the Sufism and its brotherhoods since the XIX century also have their importance. Something similar already happened in Murcia between the XII and XIII centuries. In Murcia was born the famous Sufi Ibn Arabí (1165-1240) that at 7 years of age moved to Seville. The Sufi Ibn Sab'in<sup>22</sup> was born in the Valley of Ricote in 1217. It seems that he founded in Ricote a brotherhood of followers of Ibn Sabín at a young age. In it was Al-Amir Hasan Ibn Hud. This boy was the son of the famous leader Ibn Hud, but preferred a spiritual life to a military or political one. Years later and probably before the year 1243 he and other disciples got established in Ceuta. Another Sufi, Abu al-Abas al-Mursi (1219-1287), is known of Murcia. I'm going to concentrate now on the customs of Senegal, describing at the same time on more than one occasion the similarity and costumes of the people of the Valley of Ricote, of which the location was Islamic before the XVI century.

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<sup>22</sup> WESTERVELD, Govert (2015). *Ibn Sab'in* of the Ricote Valley; the First and Last Islamic Place in Spain.

The biggest part of the costumes in the Valley of Ricote is common in other regions of Spain, whether they had or hadn't had any Islamic influx or noticeable Arab population. But we can't forget either the Mediterranean uses (Greece, Sicily, Portugal, and others) that had implanted themselves in Spain after a while. Therefore investigation is necessary – and we don't have time for this in this book – to be able to reach appropriate conclusions. I mention their customs since many of them don't exist in my homeland, Holland.

In Senegal greetings are very important: in this country people say hi all the time, even to someone they have never seen and will never see. The *Salamaleikum* (peace be with you) is in fashion. Don't hesitate to ask about family, even though you don't know its members. End with an *Alhamdulillah* (praised be God).

When I came for the first time, I saw in the valley of Ricote people used to saying hi to everybody, even people they had never seen. If one enters a store, dentist, bus, premises, train, etc., people greet you out of courtesy. In the valley of Ricote people always asked about my health and family. It's frequent to see people talking with each other when they have to wait for a bus or are in the waiting room of a hospital. In this aspect the villages' people are more open to talking than people from the city.

In Senegal meals are eaten squatting or sitting on a stool, a communal plate is used, and a hand is often used. Shoes must be taken off before walking over the carpet. Hands are washed and the right hand is used to eat, the left is reserved for other purposes. Before starting to eat one must wait until the owner has delivered the "Bismilah" (saying the name of Allah). Drink no longer after finishing the main dish. The host or hostess usually gives the best part of the meal to the visitor. Very often men eat first and women and children afterwards.

Negotiating the prices of articles is rather an Arab custom. The main purpose of the negotiation isn't to lower the prices. It's mainly about exchange. You have to take your time in Senegal, since people there aren't in as much hurry as we are. It's convenient to talk about

something else, sometimes yelled exclamations. The bigger the debate, the higher a price they will give you. In the small towns you can dribble the prices and I've seen it more than once in the Valley of Ricote, but today this custom has been lost since prices are fixed. However, there are still stores where better prices can be obtained with conversation.

To call someone on the street or to get something you use the sound *psst*. This is not impolite - on the contrary, it's a custom implanted in Senegal and that way everybody is waiting for you. It's curious, but this custom is still being used in the Valley of Ricote and other places of Spain. When you want to call a person and you don't know their name, you simply use *psst*.

The food in the Valley of Ricote was eaten sitting on a stool or at the table. They did have the custom of sitting on the floor to talk like Arabs still do in other countries, but never to eat. I've seen eating from the same plate rarely, but when you're in the countryside and breadcrumbs<sup>23</sup> are eaten, they use only one plate. On the other hand it's true that fifty years ago people in towns used to eat from a single plate, but with spoons. But this custom no longer exists. Before eating people wash their hands, in the Ricote Valley too. The tea ceremony in Senegal is very important; if the first is accepted, you must go for the third, the sweetest. Leave one or two hours for this. I haven't seen these things in the Valley of Ricote.

The Islam and its prayers require 5 prayers a day, sometimes very specific, done after the ritual ablutions. You mustn't be surprised then if you see some people who wash their feet and hands by the sidewalk, or that a merchant leaves his clients without warning to pray behind the counter. Logically we no longer see this custom in the Valley of

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<sup>23</sup> Crumbs are a typical dish of shepherds taking advantage of leftovers of stale bread, although flour crumbs, typical of southeastern Spain, exist too. Crumbs may come from North African couscous; in the Christian territories it was prepared with bread and pork bacon was thrown in to distinguish it from the Arab and Jewish food.



Ricote, since from approximately 1505 the Catholic religion was implanted in the place. The future is by definition in the hands of God. Therefore in Senegal prayers are kept to the future with "Inshallah". It's an Arab phrase that means "if God is willing". I've heard many times a person in the Valley of Ricote saying "see you tomorrow" or "call you tomorrow" and another person answer "if God is willing".

In Senegal it's a custom to greet people in an exaggerated way, which is why it takes so much time. You ask about everything; the wife or husband, kids, the rest of the family, health, livestock, or work. Answers are invariably that everything is alright, be it true or not. This capacity for optimism, the disposition to dispel problems with joy that the Senegalese manifest is rapidly contagious. People shake hands when meeting each other without taking into account how many times a day you meet the person. When you visit a town, it is courteous to present yourself to the local chief to explain that you want to spend the night there or visit the area. In the Valley of Ricote I observe the same things. People are extremely hospitable and have a lot of education. They always ask about the family, health, and other things and they don't tend to talk about problems. The same capacity for optimism is there and their way of living is always joyful despite their problems. You cannot shake hands constantly with the same person during the day, but I have observed that about 30 years ago it was a custom to present a new foreigner to the local chief directly or indirectly. Priests, doctors and mayors, ordered in all things years ago in the small villages, but this custom is gradually been lost.

In Senegal escorting visitors is a custom, but in Valle de Ricote we see the same thing. If you're new in town, they escort you to your hostel or residence. This custom has not been lost in Valle de Ricote. People are very polite to foreigners. If the elders are greeted with respect, this custom is still preserved in Valle de Ricote. The elders live with their progenies until they die, even though this custom is slowly vanishing.

In Senegal slurping noise is made when drinking tea, this habit of slurping does not exist in Valle de Ricote neither with tea, nor milk. It's rude to slurp when you drink something hot. In Senegal you can't

place a bag directly on the floor though in Valle de Ricote I have not observed this custom. In Senegal people are superstitious and buying charcoal, salt, pepper, chili peppers, needles, razor blades after nightfall (which attracts evil spirits) is not allowed. The people of Valle de Ricote are no longer superstitious. Some families believe in the evil eye, but overall people are not superstitious.

So in 1959 Baba Sy was, at 24 the undisputed master of this “national sport” of checkers in Senegal where wrestling is really the most important sport in the country and even more famous than football. This type of wrestling comes from afar. We observed that something like this was already practiced by the Moors in Spain. In the painting by Vicente Mostre from 1609 we can clearly see that the Moorish (baptized Moors) practiced wrestling at the coasts of Denia before being shipped to African countries in that year. In Senegal wrestling is the most popular national sport and in the rural zones youths with spectacular bodies defend the honor of their towns in battles in the capital.



**The Senegalese practicing wrestling.**

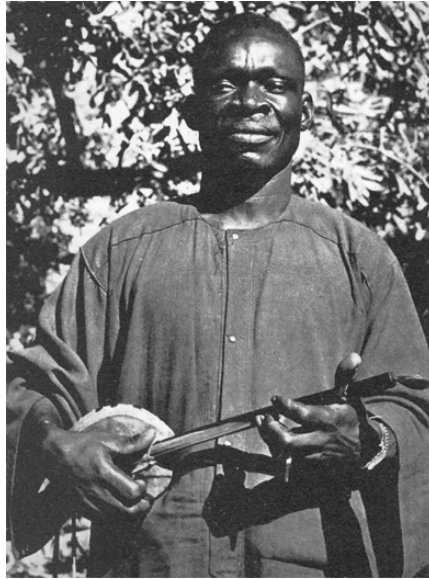
The traditional style of wrestling in Senegal, similar to the Greco-Roman wrestling mode, is a phenomenon of incredible proportions on Senegalese territory, to the point that a competition mobilizes the entire population. It is said that Dakar with four million inhabitants of the 11.6 million total population of Senegal (life expectancy of 55,6 years and \$1.759 GDP per capita) is the place where wrestling has experienced great transformation. But there is another custom in Senegal that makes me think of the glorious years of the Arabs here in Spain whose customs regarding music are still seen today. These are the minstrels and musicians.



**Wrestling of the Moorish in the 1609 painting Expulsion of the Moors of Denia by the painter Vicente Mostre**

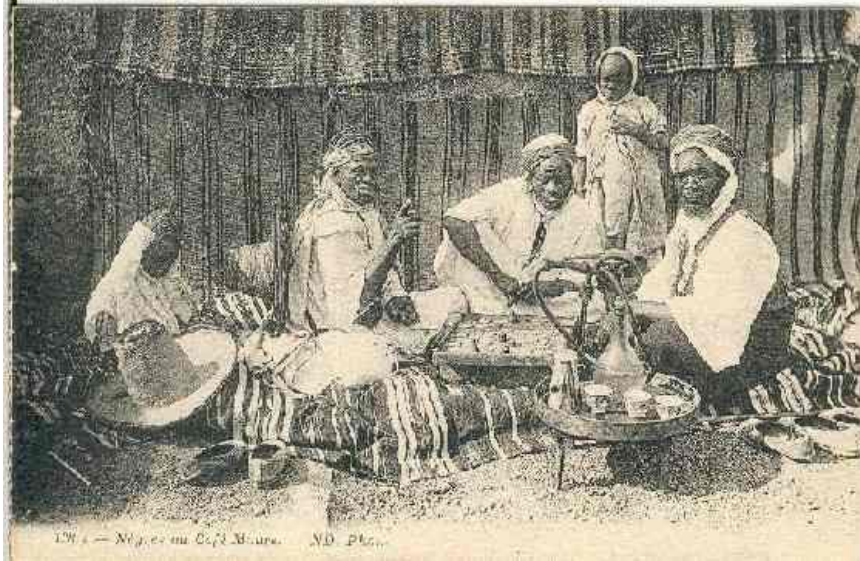
It's interesting to note that in this country minstrels still exist, just like in Spain it was a custom of the XIV-XV centuries when the Moors were invited by the Christian authorities of the city to brighten up their parties with their songs, dances, and jumps. In Senegal even today there still is the same joy of their people through the minstrels who travel the whole country singing and making music with their instruments. They are called griot and considered one of the most

ancient roots of black music. They truly are experts at telling some stories of warriors, tales, poems, and jokes. The minstrels belong to the caste of the griot and can be men or women. They usually marry among themselves, that way preserving the genealogies and oral traditions of the tribe.



**Senegalese Griot with his Banjo**

Although there are several population groups in Senegal with their own language, the contact between them and a checkerboard breaks the ice. Not much is known about the other language now since the only thing missing from the play are the game pieces. Those who master the Wolof language can go to any part of Senegal as half of the population speaks this language and it's the merchants' language.

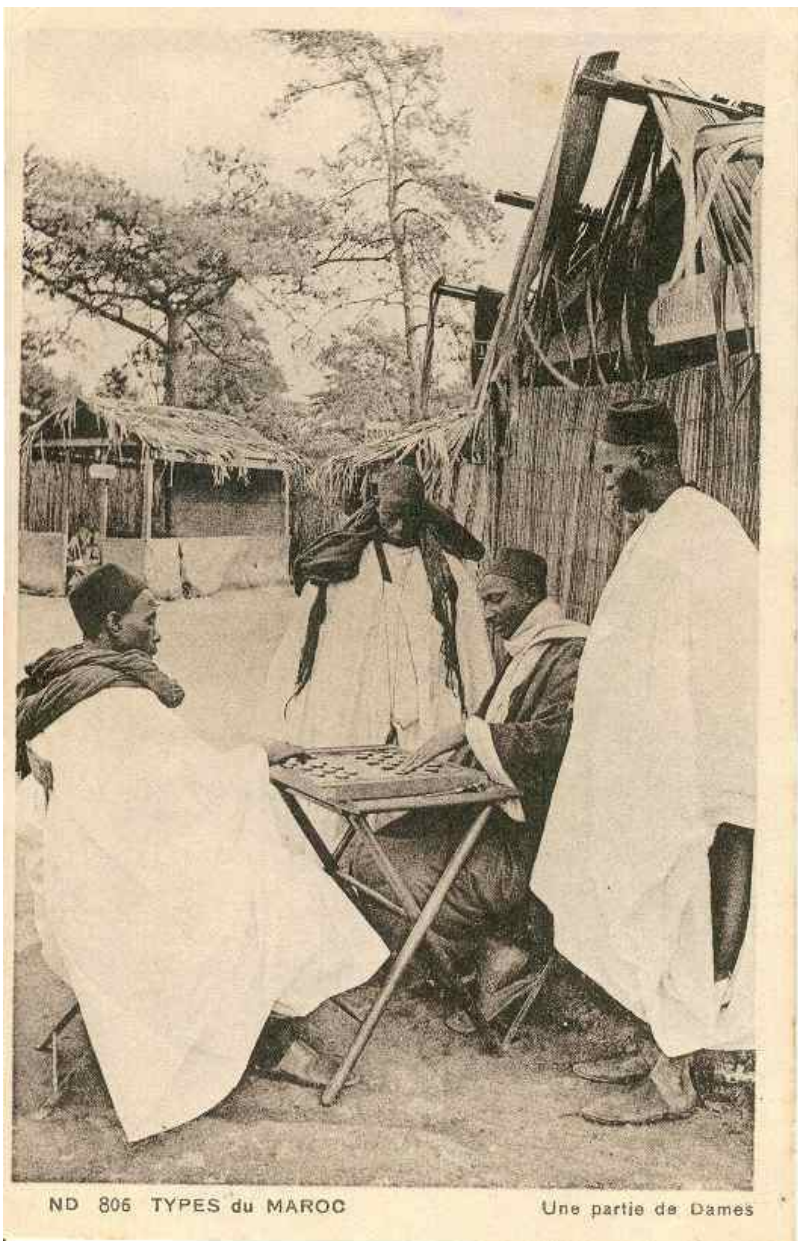


**Blacks playing checkers**  
**Image: Stéphane Faucher**

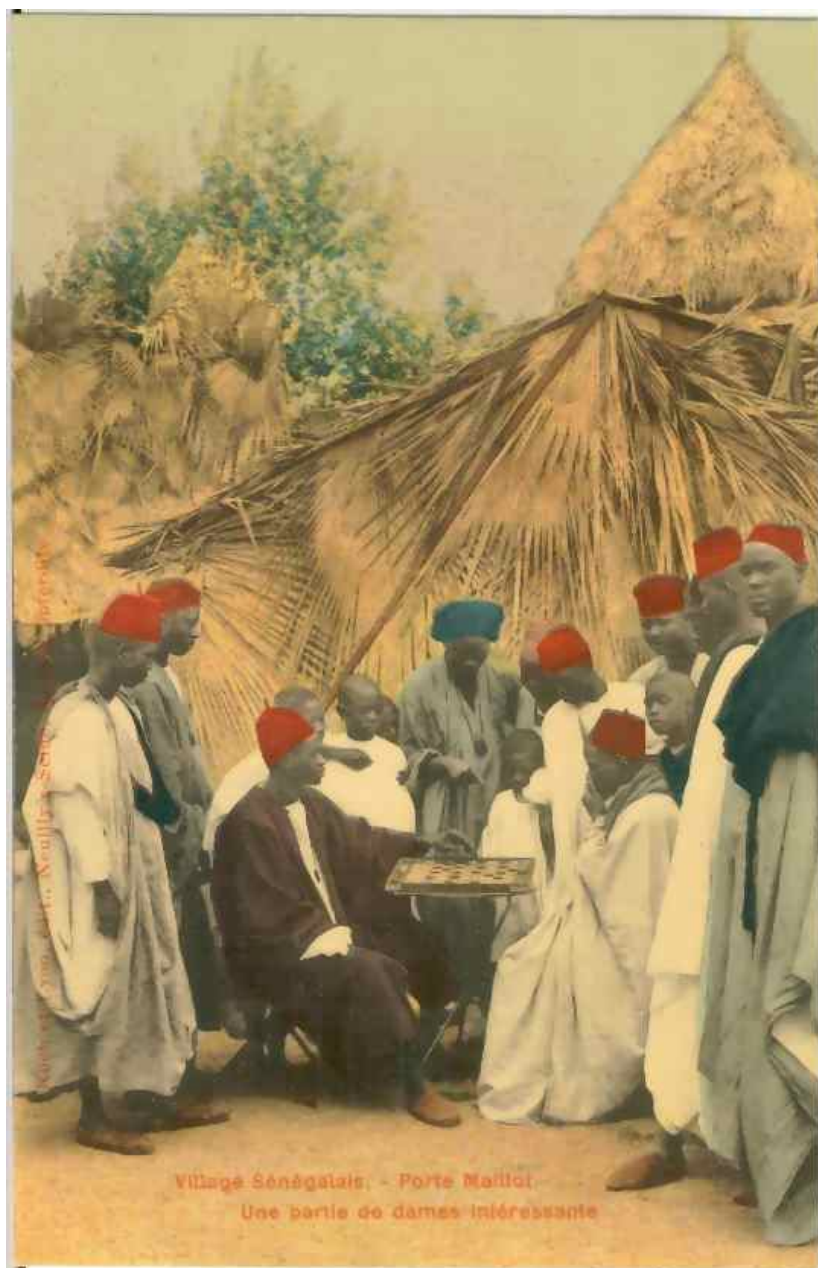




**Blacks playing checkers**  
**Image: Stéphane Faucher**



**Blacks playing checkers**  
**Image: Stéphane Faucher**



**Blacks playing checkers**  
**Image: Stéphane Faucher**



# CHAPTER 4

## Baba Sy in Dakar

Dakar is a noisy city with houses low in colonial air and tree-lined avenues in which you can find cafes and stores. Far ahead from his 15 years Baba Sy used to play in the street with rocks on a board with diagonal lines drawn on the ground or on stones. In Senegal the great diagonal is found to the right, just like in the Spanish game. But before illiterate Baba Sy had learned carpentry and cabinetmaking he didn't know anything about checkers. He used to go to the club in the great plaza in the popular and populous district of Dakar called Medina to watch the games of his compatriots. Many of them were known as professionals in the game of checkers in Dakar and throughout Senegal.



**Postcard of the ancient Medina of Dakar**

They know their job very well and we can find them in large groups. Sitting on a tree trunk they can be seen along the roadside all day long playing quick matches with big or small bets. The Senegalese players

are experts at hits. This was already known in France where sometimes the Senegalese acted in a carnival tent or fair. The visitors were usually in the tents for a short time and often lost their francs in bets. You had to be a true master to beat the Senegalese players.

The professional Senegalese players would be known for their great sportsmanship. The grandmasters Herman de Jongh and Ben Springer knew one in Paris in the thirties who always greeted them like a king. So for the normal visitor the carp was closed. The exchange of views with this type of player was of more value for Jongh than monetary gain. Also famous Woldouby 90 – 100 years ago was a player in the fair. He wanted to be among the best and for that reason he changed his carp for the tournament rooms. Woldouby made it to the Parisian championship at a time when there were many good players.

Returning to our Senegalese Baba Sy, one day during the Muslim celebration called Tabaski<sup>24</sup> (Sacrifice of lamb of Abraham) when no one worked and celebrated the holiday in Senegal, an old man had come to the club in the great Medina<sup>25</sup> plaza to play. Logically he didn't find anyone there to play - people had other things to do, such as take care of their lamb in the party. Only young Baba Sy was found in the plaza. Boy, said the old man to Baba Sy, come play, since I can't be without playing. No, I'm not very strong in the game of checkers, answered Baba Sy. This is not a problem, said the old man, I will give you 5 extra pawns and in that way you will see it's a beautiful game to spend time on. Young Baba Sy accepted, played the match, and won with 5 extra pawns. The old man went down to 4 pawns. Baba Sy still won. The same happened with 3, 2, and 1 extra

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<sup>24</sup> The Muslim festivities are governed by the lunar calendar and take place on different dates each year.

<sup>25</sup> This tale told by Malick Niang Dakar in 2009 is not considered a real reflection of truth by us. The grand plaza of the Medina creates confusion and one can think that it's about the grand Medina of Dakar, which it actually was not. In a Dutch newspaper article from 1962 by our late friend Ed Holstvoogd we can clearly see that Baba Sy learned the checker game from an old man in his hometown Mpal.

pawn. Baba Sy won all the matches. At the end Baba Sy beat the old man with an advantage of 10 to 0. The old man, who was a champion of the Medina grand plaza club, spread the news. The next day Baba Sy defeated all the players of this club of the Medina. The same happened with all the well-known players in Dakar, without exception. Baba Sy went to be measured against other players in Senegal, but couldn't find a rival. He only knew the glory and was never defeated.



**Children on top of the trees in Dakar**

It must have been from this moment that the deaf player Abdula dit Mansor Kouaté started to be his teacher, protector, and friend. And yet, there was another strong player there by the name of Doudou Ba<sup>26</sup>. Before Baba Sy the best Senegalese checker player was Ndiaye Diouf, father of the former president of the Republic of Senegal and actual

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<sup>26</sup> Courtesy of Malick Niang, Senegal.

president of the Francophonie (O.I.F.) of which the headquarters are in Paris. In addition the complex Project room “Léopold Sedar Senghor” in Dakar (Senegal) had the name of the illustrious checker player Ndiaye Diouf disappear during the 80s and buried in the city of Saint-Louis. Also in his days Baba Sy played against him and matches between them were a real festival for their spectators. Everyone wanted to see their matches and those who couldn’t see well would climb on trees so as not to miss a move between these two masters.

No clocks and no points, since these things were not used in Senegal. The scores made by Baba Sy were accepted with lots of cheers by the public in the street, in the trees, and on the rooftops, as if it was a football match<sup>27</sup>. If we believe what’s in the newspapers of 1962, then Kouaté had already been champion of Senegal for 13 years. From 1959 Biscons acted as godfather of Baba Sy and affectionately called him “Little Baba”.



**Dakar's Medina, before 1940**

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<sup>27</sup> Courtesy of Malick Niang, Senegal.

When Biscons met him, Baba Sy was poorly dressed and barefooted, he didn't have shoes. Biscons had the habit of regularly visiting the damistic circles in Dakar, to appreciate the game of the Africans on site, which was a mixture of instinct and spontaneity. Biscons rapidly realized Baba Sy's great talent and thought him to be the best player in Dakar. In those times Baba Sy played against everyone for money, for the amount of approximately 1 Euro. For some time he had some interesting income until he was known by everyone and famous in Dakar. Although he traveled from one place to another, this was not very helpful for him since the players already knew him. Finally nobody wanted to play against him and he decided to work as a driver. Then he was lucky enough to find Émile Biscons. He played with everyonce and thought that this Senegalese driver could be Woldoubby's perfect successor.



**Abdula dit Mansor Kouaté playing with Baba Sy<sup>28</sup> on July 1 1959**  
**Photo Dr. Diego Rodríguez – France**

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<sup>28</sup> Courtesy of Malick Niang, Senegal and Dr. Diego Rodriguez from France

On the other hand Baba Sy liked to play with Biscons as his friend would tell him everything about tournaments in Europe, and learned from him the basic positions. Also the customs officer showed him the official magazine of the French Federation of Checkers. Baba Sy couldn't read, but would rapidly resolve the positions and problems he saw in the printed positions. Monsieur Biscons didn't waste time and communicated to the French Federation that he had found in his student the successor of Woldoubu. Biscons took him to France in 1959 paying all his expenses.

During those years Senegal belonged to France and because of that the Senegalese could register himself in the French championship without problems. A year later things changed when Senegal gained its independence.

In 1959 after Baba Sy's success in France it was officially adopted in Senegal to play with the diagonal to the left, but logically there are still isolated towns where they play with the diagonal to the right.

On Sunday August 20, 1978 when Baba Sy tragically died in a car accident in the Mbour road, Senegal and Africa lost the best player of all times. Baba Sy, as an officer from the city council of Dakar, had a scooter (moped) to keep him mobile. His job consisted in writing the piles of trash he saw on a notepad to let the city council know about them. During his trips to other cities the moped was hit by a car in the Mbour road 80km from Dakar and Baba Sy unfortunately died. Everyone in Senegal cried over the loss of their great son Baba Sy when he was buried in the Muslim cemetery of Yoff in Dakar.

He left a legacy in the world of checkers and left as an International Grand Master, a legend for his matches that were a treasure to many. His place would be occupied by other Senegalese players and other grandmasters of the African continent, namely Cameroon, Mali, the

Ivory Coast, and others. As his friend and protector Abdula dit Mansor Kouaté<sup>29</sup> said:

I have also left the whites dumbfounded. I have never seen or read a book about the game of checkers, nevertheless I have beaten them with all their books. I have never written down my matches, but after a month I could still remember the moves. The whites were very much amazed and couldn't believe it.

The general assembly of the Worldwide Checker Federation in Dakar in 1984 once again drew the attention to a match for the world title never played between Iser Kuperman and Baba Sy. For reasons we will never understand Russia didn't want to give Baba Sy a visa, so because of this he couldn't play against Iser Kuperman. The general assembly of Groningen in 1986 definitely closed the chapter about this legendary Senegalese, posthumously attributing the world champion title.

The Russian Federation of Checkers, whose voice obviously weighs heavily on the FMJD meetings, reached a compromise proposed by the Senegalese delegation. It was agreed that in the annuals of the WFDY Baby Sy would be listed as world champion in the period from 1963-1964 along with Kuperman who wouldn't be considered a loser in the roll of the match. I think this decision is not quite fair, since when Sijbrands didn't want to defend his title as world champion in 1975, Kuperman was automatically proclaimed the new world champion of checkers. We all know that Baba Sy wanted to play against Kuperman for the world title in 1963-1964.

If the Russian officials had decided that they didn't want the match to be played, this logically wasn't Baba Sy's fault. The FMJD would have the valor in those years to proclaim Baba Sy as the new world champion.

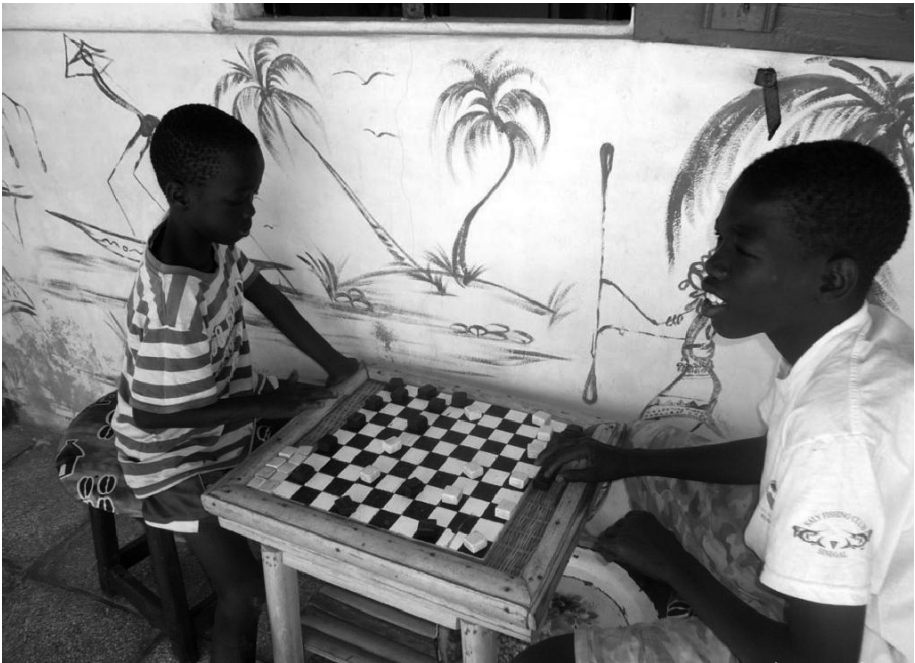
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<sup>29</sup> **MOURIK, Wim van** (2004). Kouaté Adoulaye dit Mansor. En: het Damspel, N<sup>o</sup> 5, pag. 35. Words copied by van Mourik from an article from Ton Sijbrands, without giving exact reference.



But for what I see in those years, the FMJD had double standards. If the Russian officials didn't want their player to participate in a championship for whatever reason, they should automatically cancel their titles. Wasn't Jannes Van der Wal the new world champion without the Russians? At that time the tournament didn't stop with the excuse that the Russians couldn't come.

Baba Sy rapidly acquired a legendary name as a player and for his personality as it was his sportsmanship and friendship that characterized him as a person. With the multiple matches that he played in Holland during the sixties and seventies he made countless friends. In the XXI century in Holland he is still the mourned sovereign of checkers who showed Holland in the crisis of young players the capacity and necessary illusion to attract everyone once again to the checkers game.



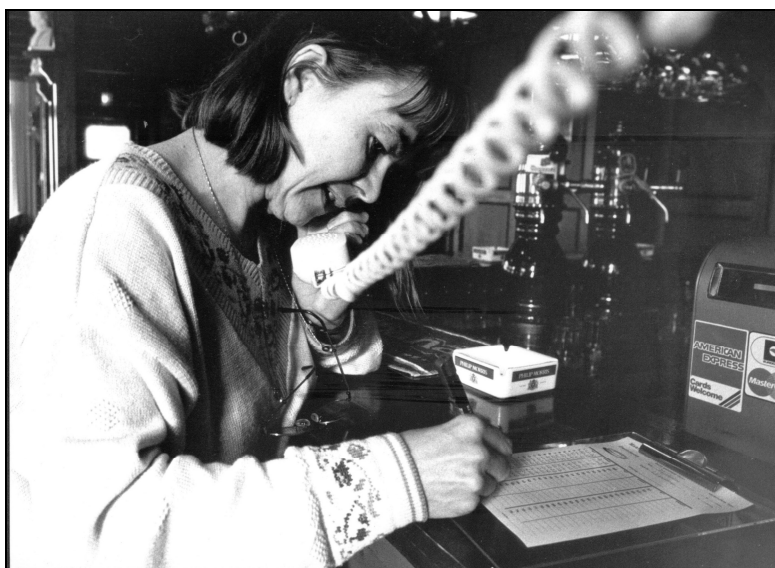
**Baba Sy's heritage in schools of Senegal**



## CHAPTER 5

### 1959 Baba Sy: the Champion of France

Too often a valuable material is lost to posterity, but through the conservative spirit of the checkers player Emilio Biscons and the dedication of Ton Sijbrands it was avoided. On the other hand we know from Biscons of a manuscript today in possession of Ada Dorgelo<sup>30</sup> in which all of the games of the grandmaster and invincible Baba Sy are found.



Ada Dorgelo writing out a game of checkers. Photo: Ad van Hasselt

In 1980 Sijbrands wrote a great work about Baba Sy, showing many of his games<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>30</sup> Ada Dorgelo and Walter E.A. van Beek edited in 1997: The Fascinating World of Draughts. 50 years world draughts federation.

<sup>31</sup> **SIJBRANDS, Ton** (1989). Baba Sy, Editions “Dammen”.

While Woldouby, the most illustrious predecessor of the Senegalese Baba Sy, had failed despite his dazzling act in Paris in 1910, he missed nothing of Baba Sy. For the Europeans who could see the future talent Baba Sy opened their eyes to the now-not-so dubious talents of the African continent.

Baba Sy was discovered in Dakar in 1959 by Emile Biscons<sup>32</sup>, a customs official of the French colonial administration close to the modern airport of Dakar. Apparently it was Abdula dit Mansor Kouaté who spoke of Baba Sy to Biscons<sup>3</sup>. This official was a great expert in checkers players and a checkers fanatic whose capacities are not enough to sit among the masters by the skin of his teeth. Baba Sy at 24 was a young man, strong, and cheerful. Therefore it was necessary to show him how things were outside of his country. As previously stated, this was conducted by Emile Biscons, in the French championship (Châtellerault, 1959) where he appeared for the first time in Europe with a letter from Emile Biscons to the French federation of the game of checkers. In the letter Biscons suggested giving Baba Sy immediate access to the French championship, then at least Senegal would have a title. Logically, in Paris they laughed at such letter, but finally with some goodwill Baba Sy was authorized to participate in the French championship. In Europe there was a lack of new blood and new drives as there were not many young folks interested in playing checkers.

Baba Sy thus appeared just in time to refresh the checker life in Europe. This way Baba Sy entered the checker scene and his results would be like those of a comet in 1959. As I have previously stated, a year after this “discovery” of the Frenchman Emile Biscons, who works in Senegal, Baba Sy participated in the French championship of the game of checkers. His entry in the arena from 4 to 13 September 1959 caused a huge commotion since he was a complete stranger of a person during that time, he didn’t know how to take note of the plays, and didn’t understand anything about the clock. On the other hand it was a very strange case. Baba courteously waited until his adversary

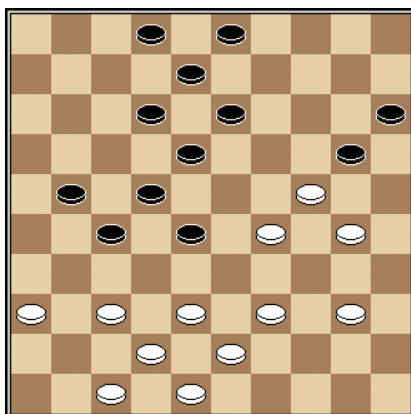
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<sup>32</sup> **MOURIK, Wim Van** (2004). Kouate Adoulaye dit Mansor. En: *het Damsel*, N° 5, pg. 35.

moved a pawn to respond immediately with his move. He didn't take any time to think and something like that had never been seen in the tournament. But what astonished everyone is that he was able to classify as the best player in France in 1959. This was something out of the ordinary.

R. Boucher - Baba Sy 1-1 04-09-1959  
Campeonato de Francia

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.33-28	23x32	4.37x28	10-14
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9.28x17	11x22	10.32-27	6-11	11.31-26	22x31	12.26x37	11-17
13.38-32	7-11	14.43-38	1-6	15.49-43	19-23	16.34-30	14-19
17.46-41	20-25	18.32-28	25x34	19.39x30	23x32	20.37x28	17-22
21.28x17	11x22	22.50-44	6-11	23.41-37	19-23	24.44-39	11-17
25.40-34	17-21	26.30-25	23-28	27.34-30	9-14	28.30-24	4-9
29.45-40	21-27	30.35-30	16-21	31.33-29	14-20	32.25x14	9x20



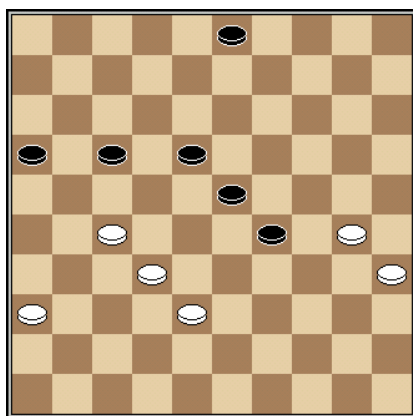
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41.40-35	8-13	42.34-30	13-19	43.30-25	15-20	44.25x14	19x10
45.48-42	3-9	46.31-26	23-29	47.42-37	29-34	48.37-32	2-7
49.32x21	24-30	50.35x24	34-40	51.24-19	40-45	52.38-32	10-15
53.32-27	22x31	54.36x27	15-20	55.19-14	45-50	56.14x3	50x36
57.3x25	7-11	58.25-34	11-17	59.21x12	36-27		

H. Caubere - Baba Sy

0-2 05-09-1959

Campeonato de Francia

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9.46-41	5-10	10.41-37	10-14	11.40-34	17-22	12.28x17	11x31
13.36x27	2- 7	14.44-40	6-11	15.50-44	11-17	16.34-30	7-11
17.30-25	1- 6	18.33-29	23x34	19.40x20	15x24	20.39-33	19-23
21.44-39	14-19	22.45-40	9-14	23.33-28	4- 9	24.40-34	14-20
25.25x14	9x20	26.34-30	20-25	27.38-33	25x34	28.39x30	17-22
29.28x17	11x31	30.37x26	6-11	31.42-38	11-17	32.32-27	17-22
33.38-32	22x31	34.26x37	16-21	35.43-38	21-27	36.32x21	23-28
37.33x22	18x16	38.38-33	13-18	39.49-43	12-17	40.48-42	17-22
41.47-41	8-12	42.41-36	22-27	43.42-38	18-23	44.37-31	23-28
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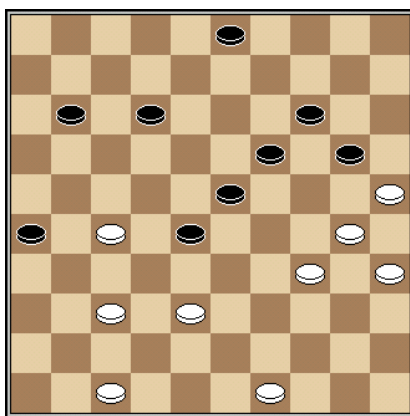


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53.35-30	39-44	54.30-25	44-49	55.27-22	18x27	56.28-23	49-32

Henry Chiland - Baba Sy  
Campeonato de Francia

1-1 05-09-1959

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13.40-34	9-14	14.44-40	4- 9	15.46-41	17-21	16.32-28	23x32
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33.38-32	21-27	34.32x21	16x27	35.43-38	2- 7	36.38-32	27x38
37.33x42	22-28	38.31-27	18-23	39.29x18	13x31	40.36x27	19-23
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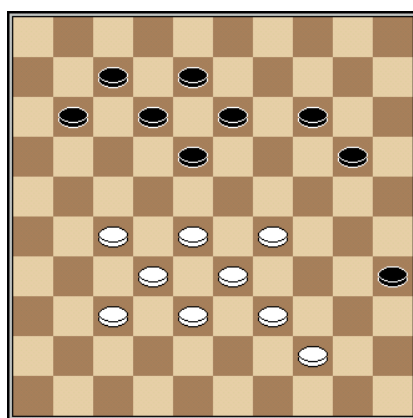


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61.38-32	28-33	62.24-20	14-19	63.27-22	44-50	64.20-15	19-24
65.15-10	50-45	66.10- 4	24-30	67.25x34	45x43	68. 4-10	43-27
69.10- 4	27-43	70. 4-10	43-27	71.10- 4	27-36	72.37-32	26-31
73. 4-15	33-39	74.32-28	39-43	75.28-23	43-48	76.23-18	48-30
77.18-12	30- 2	78.15-42	2-30	79.42x26	30-48	80.12- 7	

Baba Sy - Abel Verse 2-0 06-09-1959

Campeonato de Francia

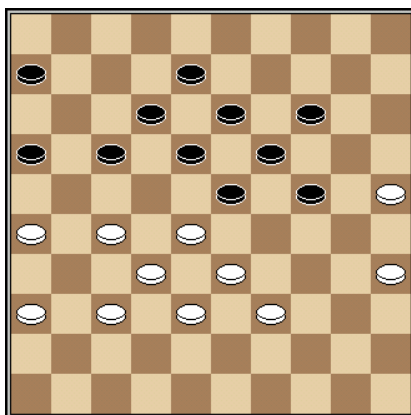
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13.35-30	4-10	14.30-25	14-20	15.25x14	10x19	16.47-42	5-10
17.39-34	9-14	18.44-40	3- 9	19.49-44	19-24	20.34-29	18-23
21.28x30	14-19	22.27x18	12x25	23.46-41	7-12	24.41-37	10-14
25.44-39	2- 7	26.33-28	17-21	27.39-33	19-24	28.40-34	21-26
29.31-27	24-30	30.43-39	14-20	31.50-44	30-35	32.34-29	12-18
33.45-40	20-24	34.29x20	25x14	35.40-34	7-12	36.37-31	26x37
37.42x31	11-17	38.27-22	18x27	39.31x11	16x 7	40.36-31	13-18
38.48-42	9-13	42.31-27	6-11	43.42-37	15-20	44.34-29	20-25



45.27-21	14-19	46.28-23	19x28	47.32x23	18-22	48.39-34	11-16
49.37-32	16x27	50.32x21	13-18	51.23-19	7-11	52.19-14	8-13
53.14-10	13-19	54.10- 5	25-30	55. 5x 6	30x50	56.21-16	

Baba Sy - Pierre Dionis 1-1 07-09-1959  
Campeonato de Francia

1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x32	3.37x28	19-24	4.41-37	14-19
5.37-32	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.46-41	12-18	8.41-37	7-12
9.39-34	19-24	10.44-39	14-19	11.50-44	10-14	12.34-29	5-10
13.29x20	15x24	14.40-34	18-23	15.44-40	10-15	16.34-29	23x34
17.40x20	15x24	18.31-27	2- 7	19.45-40	17-22	20.28x17	11x31
21.36x27	19-23	22.40-34	14-19	23.33-28	12-18	24.39-33	7-12
25.34-30	6-11	26.47-41	11-17	27.37-31	17-21	28.41-36	9-14
29.31-26	12-17	30.42-37	17-22	31.28x17	21x12	32.33-28	14-20
33.43-39	20-25	34.48-43	25x34	35.39x30	1- 6	36.43-39	12-17
37.39-33	8-12	38.30-25	4-9	39.49-43	9-14	40.43-39	3-8

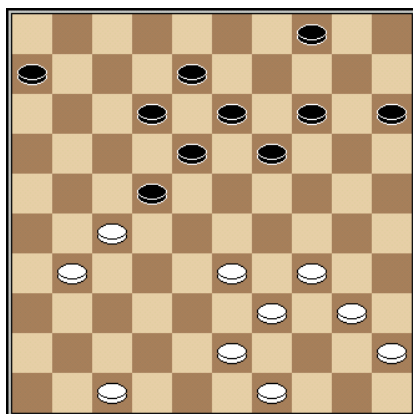


41.36-31	6-11	42.39-34	23-29	43.34x23	18x29	44.28-23	19x39
45.27-22	17x28	46.32x43	13-19	47.37-32	11-17	48.32-28	12-18
49.31-27	8-12	50.38-32	24-29	51.35-30	16-21	52.27x16	18-22
53.16-11	22x33	54.11x22	33-38	55.30-24	38x18	56.24x22	29-34
57.26-21	34-40	58.22-17	40-44	59.17x 8	44-49		



Baba Sy - Raoul Delhom 1-1 10-09-1959  
 Campeonato de Francia

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.34-29	23x34	4.40x29	10-14
5.37-32	14-19	6.41-37	19-24	7.46-41	20-25	8.29x20	25x14
9.32-28	5-10	10.37-32	17-22	11.28x17	11x22	12.41-37	18-23
13.45-40	12-18	14.35-30	7-12	15.31-27	22x31	16.36x27	6-11
17.50-45	1- 6	18.30-25	12-17	19.33-29	23x34	20.39x30	8-12
21.44-39	17-22	22.37-31	14-19	23.30-24	19x30	24.25x34	13-19
25.38-33	10-14	26.42-38	9-13	27.31-26	22x31	28.26x37	2- 8
29.33-28	18-22	30.28x17	11x22	31.38-33	13-18	32.37-31	16-21
33.43-38	3- 9	34.48-43	9-13	35.32-27	21x32	36.38x27	12-17

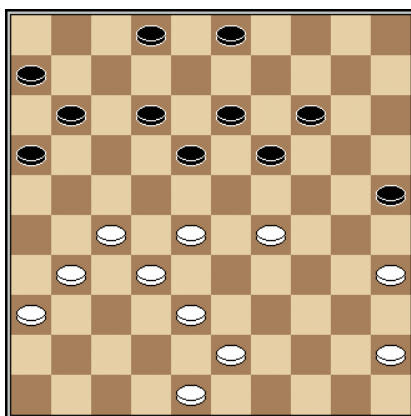


37.43-38	17-21	38.27x16	22-28	39.33x22	18x36	40.38-32	19-23
41.32-27	8-12	42.27-21	4- 9	43.21-17	12x21	44.16x27	6-11
45.39-33	13-18	46.27-21	11-17	47.21x12	18x 7	48.34-29	23x34
49.40x29	14-19	50.33-28	19-24	51.29x20	15x24	52.28-23	7-12
53.49-43	9-13	54.23-19	36-41	55.19x17	41-46	56.17-12	46-32
57.43-39	32-28						

Baba Sy - Li Tchoan King  
Campeonato de Francia

1-1 11-09-1959

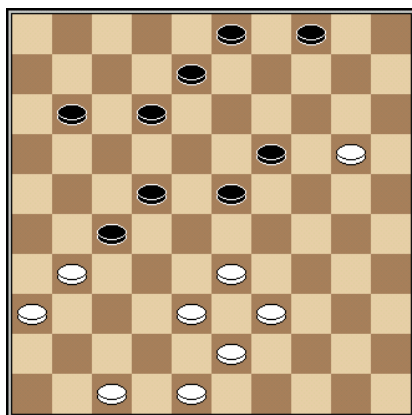
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5.37-32	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.46-41	12-18	8.41-37	7-12
9.39-34	19-23	10.28x19	14x23	11.34-29	23x34	12.40x29	1- 7
13.44-39	10-14	14.50-44	5-10	15.33-28	15-20	16.39-33	18-23
17.29x18	12x23	18.28x19	14x23	19.44-40	10-14	20.43-39	7-12
21.33-28	13-19	22.31-27	12-18	23.37-31	9-13	24.49-43	17-21
25.38-33	20-24	26.39-34	4- 9	27.42-38	21-26	28.47-42	26x37
29.42x31	8-12	30.34-29	23x34	31.40x20	14x25	32.33-29	9-14



33.43-39	25-30	34.35x24	19x30	35.39-33	30-35	36.48-43	2- 8
37.43-39	11-17	38.45-40	35x44	39.39x50	14-19	40.31-26	17-21
41.26x17	12x21	42.50-44	21-26	43.36-31	26x37	44.32x41	3- 9
45.29-24	19x30	46.28-23	18x29	47.33x35	6-11	48.35-30	11-17
49.30-24	17-22	50.27x18	13x22	51.24-19	22-27	52.41-37	16-21

Pierre Pérot - Baba Sy 0-2 12-09-1959 2.45/0.35  
Campeonato de Francia

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	14-19
5.33-28	17-22	6.28x17	11x22	7.31-26	5-10	8.37-31	10-14
9.31-27	22x31	10.26x37	6-11	11.46-41	11-17	12.34-30	20-25
13.36-31	25x34	14.39x30	15-20	15.30-25	20-24	16.31-26	7-11
17.44-39	1-6	18.39-33	17-21	19.26x17	12x21	20.33-29	24x33
21.38x29	23x34	22.40x29	19-23	23.35-30	23x34	24.30x39	8-12
25.50-44	13-19	26.45-40	11-17	27.43-38	9-13	28.40-35	21-27
29.32x21	16x27	30.35-30	19-23	31.39-33	6-11	32.49-43	2-8
33.41-36	17-22	34.33-29	23x34	35.30x39	14-19	36.39-33	19-23
37.44-39	13-19	38.25-20	23-28	39.37-32	28x37	40.42x31	18-23

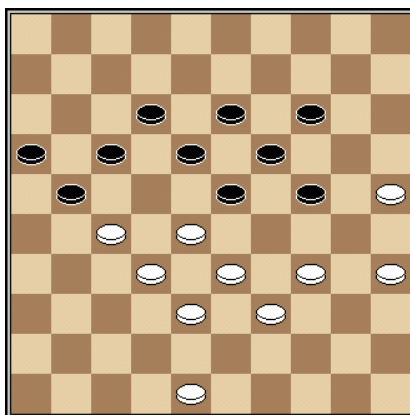


41.33-29	23x34	42.39x30	12-18	43.38-33	8-13	44.47-42	18-23
45.43-39	23-28	46.39-34	28x39	47.34x43	13-18	48.42-38	18-23
49.43-39	3-9	50.39-34	11-17	51.38-33	23-28	52.20-15	28x39
53.34x43	17-21	54.48-42	21-26	55.42-37	19-23	56.30-24	23-28
57.43-39	9-14	58.39-34	28-33	59.34-30	33-39	60.30-25	39-44
61.25-20	14x25	62.24-19	44-50	63.37-32	26x28	64.19-13	50-45
65.13-9	4x13	66.15-10	45-23				

Georges Post - Baba Sy  
Campeonato de Francia

0-2 12-09-1959

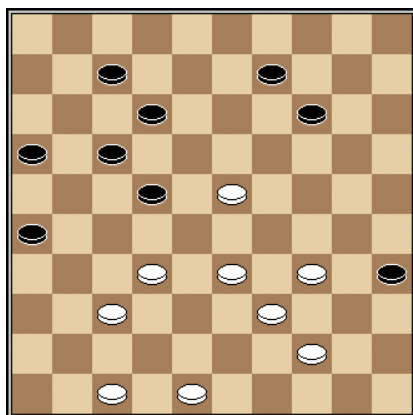
1.31-27	17-21	2.37-31	21-26	3.41-37	19-23	4.33-28	14-19
5.39-33	10-14	6.34-30	20-24	7.44-39	11-17	8.27-22	18x27
9.31x11	6x17	10.36-31	17-21	11.31-27	1- 6	12.46-41	7-11
13.41-36	14-20	14.30-25	12-18	15.25x14	9x20	16.40-34	24-29
17.33x24	20x40	18.35x44	15-20	19.45-40	20-24	20.40-35	8-12
21.39-33	4- 9	22.44-39	2- 8	23.39-34	5-10	24.43-39	10-14
25.49-43	14-20	26.37-31	26x37	27.42x31	21-26	28.47-42	26x37
29.42x31	11-17	30.27-22	18x27	31.31x11	6x17	32.36-31	12-18
33.31-27	8-12	34.34-30	20-25	35.50-44	25x34	36.39x30	17-21
37.44-39	12-17	38.39-34	3- 8	39.43-39	8-12	40.30-25	9-14



41.35-30	24x35	42.27-22	18x27	43.33-29	17-22	44.29x20	22x44
45.20-15	44-50	46.15-10	50-45	47.10- 5	45x46	48. 5x 1	27-31
49.25-20	31-36	50.20-15	21-27	51.48-42	46- 5	52.38-33	27-32
53. 1-45	36-41	54.45-34	41-46	55.33-29	46-41	56.29-24	41-36
57.34-48	32-38	58.42x33	36- 4	59.48-42	4-27	60.42-47	27-32
61.47-42	35-40						

Baba Sy - Marcel Fayet 0-2 13-09-1959  
 Campeonato de Francia

1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x34	3.40x29	12-18	4.44-40	19-23
5.28x19	14x34	6.40x29	10-14	7.50-44	5-10	8.37-32	14-19
9.41-37	19-24	10.46-41	7-12	11.32-28	1- 7	12.37-32	20-25
13.29x20	25x14	14.41-37	14-20	15.45-40	17-21	16.31-26	10-14
17.26x17	11x22	18.28x17	12x21	19.36-31	14-19	20.31-26	7-12
21.26x17	12x21	22.37-31	21-26	23.31-27	20-24	24.40-34	15-20
25.33-28	20-25	26.38-33	2- 7	27.43-38	8-12	28.34-29	18-23
29.29x20	25x14	30.35-30	12-18	31.30-24	19x30	32.28x 8	3x12
33.33-28	9-13	34.44-40	30-35	35.49-44	4- 9	36.40-34	6-11
37.38-33	11-17	38.42-37	18-22	39.27x18	13x22	40.28-23?	



41.23x 3 12-18!

14-19!

Logically he got a little nervous during his first game since someone else was writing out his plays. With no knowledge of the beginning moves he achieved the title of champion of France. He lost a game in this championship against Dr. Fayet. However, Baba didn't stop winning his games, this way he got the same amount of points as the experienced player and bank employee Abel Verse, a man who was able to manipulate the pawns in the game of checkers as if they were banknotes.



**Baba Sy and Raoul Delhom during the French championship 1959**  
**Photo Dr. Diego Rodríguez – France**

The French champion Delhom obtained 12 points, the same as the Chinese Li Tocan King (1904-1971) who was sent by his parents to Paris to study medicine, but quickly became a master of the game of checkers. The other players were shown little in the tournament. But as Baba Sy had won against Abel Verse, the title of champion of France was awarded to Baba Sy. He really was a natural talent.



Baba Sy in his game against Abel Verse. Photo: Dr. Diego Rodríguez

#### Clasificación del Campeonato de Francia, 1959

Nº	Jugadores	S	V	K	D	F	D	P	Po	C	B	C	Total
01	Baba Sy	X	2	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	13
02	Abel Verse	0	X	1	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	13
03	Li Tchoan King	1	1	X	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	12
04	Raoul Delhom	1	1	0	X	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	12
05	Marcel Fayet	2	2	1	0	X	0	1	1	1	1	2	11
06	Pierre Dionis	1	0	1	0	2	X	1	1	2	1	1	10
07	Pierre Pérot	0	0	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	1	2	9
08	Georges Post	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	2	9
09	Henri Chiland	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	X	1	1	8
10	Boucher	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	X	2	8
11	Caubère	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	X	5





**Baba Sy in Dakar, Master of the Federation, 30 October 1959**  
**Courtesy by Dr. Diego Rodríguez, France**

Apart from the big international tournaments Baba Sy had become a true specialist in simultaneous games where his great talent in the game of checkers was once again showed; fast victories, impressive combinations, and always a new record in the number of participants.



**Baba Sy in Dakar, 30 October 1959**  
**Courtesy of Dr. Diego Rodríguez, France**

### French champions until 2009

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Villa that organized the championship</b>
1938	Herman de Jongh	Paris
1939	Abel Verse	Paris
1942	Pierre Ghestem	Paris
1943	Pierre Ghestem	Paris
1945	René Fankhauser	Paris
1946	Pierre Blum	Lyon
1947	Georges Malfray	Paris
1948	Marcel Bonnard	Lyon
1949	Georges Malfray	Paris
1950	Georges Malfray	Nice
1951	Marcel Bonnard	Bordeaux
1952	Abel Verse	Grenoble
1953	King Li-Tchoan	Paris
1954	King Li-Tchoan	Lyon
1955	Abel Verse	Les Sables d'Olonne
1956	Michel Hisard	Tours
1957	Michel Hisard	Paris
1958	Raoul Delhom	Lyon
1959	Baba Sy	Chatellerault
1960	Abel Verse	Romilly sur Seine
1961	Michel Hisard	Versailles
1962	Michel Hisard	Marseille
1963	Michel Hisard	Lyon
1964	Michel Hisard	Ales
1965	Michel Hisard	Dijon
1966	Georges Mostovoy	Paris
1967	Georges Mostovoy	Amiens
1968	Georges Mostovoy	Nimes
1969	Michel Hisard	Perpignan
1970	Michel Hisard	Nantes
1971	Michel Hisard	Toulon
1972	Jean-Pierre Rabatel	Bordeau
1973	Michel Hisard	Malacène
1974	Georges Mostovoy	La Rochelle
1975	Raoul Delhom	Gaillac
1976	Fidèle Nimbi	Narbonne
1977	Michel Hisard	Beauvais

1978	Jean-Pierre Rabatel	Dijon
1979	Henry Cordier	Valence
1980	Raoul Delhom	Draguignan
1981	Luc Guinard	Nantes
1982	Jean-Pierre Dubois	Toulouse
1983	Luc Guinard	La Chapelle d'Armentières
1984	Daniel Issalene	Séclin
1985	Luc Guinard	Compiègne
1986	Daniel Issalene	Dax
1987	Olivier Bonnave	Apt
1988	Olivier Bonnave	Sorgues
1989	José Beyaert	Les Sables d'Olonne
1990	Papa Cisse	Chartres
1991	Daniel Issalene	Reims
1992	Gilles Delmotte	Parthenay
1993	Papa Cisse	Le Mans
1994	Thierry Delmotte	Macon
1995	Fidèle Nimbi	Troyes
1996	Arnaud Cordier	Montélimar
1997	Arnaud Cordier	Parthenay
1998	Arnaud Cordier	Paris
1999	Nicolas Guibert	Ax-les-Thermes
2000	Arnaud Cordier	Le Pradet
2001	Arnaud Cordier	La Roche sur Yon
2002	Laurent Nicault	Mont-de-Marsan
2003	Laurent Nicault	Hellemmes
2004	Gilles Delmotte	Compiègne
2005	Arnaud Cordier	Bourges
2006	Oscar Lognon	Lauzerte
2007	Arnaud Cordier	Gravelines
2008	Arnaud Cordier	Lannion
2009	Thierry Delmotte	Mont-de-Marsan

# CHAPTER 6

## 1959 Baba Sy's first steps in Holland

### **Baba Sy presented himself for the First Lucas Bols Tournament**

The first time that Baba Sy arrived in the Netherlands he was well received by Ad Ivens where he could spend the night. The family quickly realized that Baba Sy had different habits and was obviously not up to date with the habits of the Dutch. Baba put out his cigarette butts on the Ivens' living room table. Furthermore he tore off a piece of bread and grabbed some of the sausage that was placed on a dish on the table with his hands. These are very normal things for us who live in Ricote Valley<sup>33</sup>, but not for those in Holland. Not any knives or forks are needed. In Dakar people do not take seats around the table, but on the ground around a huge plate filled with rice, lamb meat, and vegetables. In order to eat the people present reach their hands into the plate to grab their share. Everything depends on the customs and traditions of each country. Baba Sy liked coffee, tea, and Coke, but his religion prohibited drinking alcoholic beverages. Aside from his native language Pulaar he also spoke Wolof and French; he knew a lot about the Arabs as he knew the Koran. English he knew very little of. In Senegal Baba Sy used to drink mint tea, *bissap* - a drink made out of the leaves of hibiscus.

Here in Spain at a bar one puts the cigarette butts out on the ground or on a plate when there are no ashtrays. It is also normal here to tear off a piece of bread or grab some built-in [again the word built-in isn't right] with one's hands. It is also a custom for everyone at the table to eat and pick salads or other appetizers out of a dish with their own fork or spoon. In Morocco I have spent long business periods occasionally eating food with my own hands. One time a prominent Kenitran family (from Morocco) invited my Spanish friend and me to eat roasted lamb

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<sup>33</sup> I write extensively about the Ricote Valley and its customs in chapter 3

at night. Thus the family sacrificed a huge lamb especially for us. When we visited their house at night, we saw that there were a lot of people. Thus once we had greeted the respectable Moroccans with the customary salutation - cheek to cheek, I sat with my Spanish friend and ten illustrious Moroccans around a large table with a roasted lamb prepared especially in our honor. When I saw my Moroccan neighbor put his hands inside the lamb to grab a big piece of meat, I followed by doing the same. Later when he put the gnawed bones without any meat in front of me, I did the same. The lamb was delicious and we spent an enjoyable night. The women were not present, as it is not customary. Men eat at first and women follow in another room. In Morocco I feel at home due to Islamic remainders that can still be found in Ricote Valley with respect to hospitality. So today I perfectly comprehend the Islamic customs of Baba Sy during his time in Holland. Everything was new and very different for him. Those were the years in which Fred Ivens was one of the most loyal companions of Baba Sy throughout the simultaneous games.



**Skating on “Stadhouderskade” of Amsterdam, 26 December 1962  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 914-6491 Photographer: Jac. de Nijs**

Everything was new for Baba Sy during those years. One time after a walk he came back to the hotel with a very surprised face, pointing out that there were people who walked on the water. It is true, Baba Sy could not understand how frozen water allowed people to walk on it, a thing that happens in Holland every year. Besides, he always left the hotel when it rained, as rain was a gift from the sky. When the Dutch hurried to find a place to be dry, Baba happily walked in the rain watching the gift from the sky, something so difficult to obtain in his country and so frequent in Holland. By the way, in this country miracles could be seen.



**A typical rainy day in Amsterdam (21 December 1962)**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-8954 Photographer: Jac. de Nijs**

For dubious reasons he could not participate in the first tournament of Lucas Bols of Holland, which was celebrated from 28 December 1959 to 5 January 1960 in the Krasnapolsky Hotel in Amsterdam. Baba Sy was sent by the French Federation of Checkers to Holland. He came to Amsterdam with a scholarship from the Senegal government



especially for this event, next to Delhom and Aubier who were going to participate in this international tournament.



**Baba Sy against Jan M. Bom in the day of the Opening  
of the Lucas Bols tournament**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 910-8993 Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**

It is a shame that the organizers could not make a place for him in the Lucas Bols tournament. Rather the checkers judges didn't know Baba Sy and since they had not been consulted in time, Baba Sy was excluded. This way Baba Sy could only participate as a spectator in this tournament and as he was very restless during that time, he modestly interfered in the analysis at the end of the games. Baba Sy realized that it was a handicap for him not to be able to write out the games and thus decided to learn to write.

# CHAPTER 7

## 1960 Different tournaments

In January the Lucas Bols Tournament ended and Jan Bom was the champion of the older group with 21 points followed by Pieter Bergsma of Frisia with 19 points. We see that five Dutchmen finished as the top five. The firm Lucas Bols noticed this and the deputy director M.A. Zeylstra said that “next year stronger foreign players have to participate” and the management of the Dutch Checker’s Federation (K.N.D.B) could only confirm this notion. It was a big mistake not letting Baba Sy participate in this tournament.

**Lucas Bols Tournament, elder group, 1960**

N°	Player	Country	B	B	G	D	M	A	D	G	Points
01	Jan M. Bom	Holanda	X	12	11	21	12	12	12	22	21
02	Pieter Bergsma	Holanda	10	X	22	11	12	22	11	12	19
03	Freek Gordijn	Holanda	11	00	X	21	11	21	12	21	16
04	Barend Dukel	Holanda	01	11	01	X	11	21	12	22	16
05	Jan Metz	Holanda	10	10	11	11	X	11	11	12	13
06	G. Aubier	Francia	10	00	01	01	11	X	12	22	12
07	R. Delhom	Francia	10	11	10	10	11	10	X	10	9
08	A. Guignard	Suiza	00	10	01	00	10	00	12	X	6

Also the great international master Herman de Jongh had made a mistake with Baba Sy. He wrote in the *Algemeen Handelsblad* newspaper that Baba Sy still didn’t have the strength of a great international master, even thought as a simultaneous player there was no one like him. In the latter Herman Jongh wasn’t wrong; effectively back in those days no one knew how to play simultaneous like he did, but to say that Baba didn’t have the strength of an international master was a big mistake and a miscalculation.



**Pieter Bergsma against André Guignard, January 4, 1960**  
**Photo: National Archief-Beeldbank, 910-9126 Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Jan M. Bom against Freek Gordijn, January 4, 1960**  
**Photo: National Archief-Beeldbank, 910-9128 Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**

That year Piet Roozenburg wrote an article in the *Het Damspel*<sup>34</sup> that our checker pride had received a huge hit with the victory of Iser Kuperman over Geert van Dijk in the match for the 1959 championship. The outcome for that occasion was 27-13 in favor of Kuperman, and a few years before Kuperman had already won the world cup upon winning a match against the Canadian Marcel Deslauriers with a score of 22-18. Roozenburg used to say that years ago he had already predicted that there would be a void if Reinier Cornelis Keller and he left the court. Nobody paid attention to him and now they were already facing these facts.

Logically, news like that was the harsh truth. Holland no longer had good players to make life impossible to Iser Kuperman despite Piet Roozenburg's warnings, and naturally Reinier Cornelis Keller, Ben Springer, and Herman de Jongh were also worried about this issue. Now we understand better that the Dutch would take advantage of any player who could give other young players an impulse, so that Holland would recover its leading position of 1948 and 1952. For this reason the arrival of Baba Sy came like godsend, even though logically among the sponsors not everybody had the foresight of Roozenburg, Keller, and De Jongh.

It is to be supposed that not everyone wasn't totally agreeing with the organization of the Lucas Bols Tournament in which Baba Sy couldn't participate. It was a really unnecessary waste of time and of this talent at hand. Luckily the "Checkers Association" organized a series of simultaneous and small tournaments and the ex world champion Benedicto Springer worked as Baba Sy's manager. The great master quickly became one of Baba Sy's best friends and advisors. Baba Sy always looked with greater interest at the ranking that reporters fabricated and in this way he learned to see in the images of words the names of the players and no longer had an issue with the numbers. Throughout his stay in Holland Baba Sy played 400 matches from which he won 364, 33 ended up a draw, and only 3 were lost. That

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<sup>34</sup> **ROOZENBURG, Piet** (1960) Nationale damtrots kreeg in Rusland zware deuk. In: *Het Damspel*, 3, págs. 34 y 36







achieved him a result of 95,1%. The speed of playing a match was about 4 minutes.

It was through the restless job of a promoter of checkers, the ex world champion Benedicto Springer (1897-1960) that people in 1960 during the Hartevelt Tournament in the city of IJmuiden in Holand) got knowledge of Baba Sy’s checker phenomenon for the first time. Baba Sy still played fast, if not very fast. At IJmuiden on 6 and 7 January 1960 was the first time he was seen thinking too much about a move and lost; in this case to Piet van Heerde. He also played a simultaneous of 32 boards there and won in 90 minutes.



Benedictus Springer

1960 Hartevelt Tournament (IJmuiden, Holand)

PI		Nombre	1	2	3	4	5	6	We	Wi	Re	Ve	Pt	SB
1		Ben Springer	X	1	2	1	2	2	5	3	2	0	8	34
2		Baba Sy	1	X	0	1	1	2	5	1	3	1	5	23
3		Piet van Heerde	0	2	X	1	1	1	5	1	3	1	5	22
4		Henk Laros	1	1	1	X	1	1	5	0	5	0	5	25
5		Ed Holstvoogd	0	1	1	1	X	1	5	0	4	1	4	18
6		Theo Tielrooy	0	0	1	1	1	X	5	0	3	2	3	14

Baba Sy's result wasn't optimal. Again, as it happened in the French Championship, Baby Sy lost his first match. In this case against the Amsterdam player Piet van Heerde. Baba had to get used to playing in another country with strange people and logically had to adapt to everything. But he did it very fast. Baba recuperated quickly and tied Henk Laros the same day, and on his last game of that day he strongly attacked the position of Theo Tielrooy and won deservedly. With these results Ben Springer led the Tournament with 6 points on the first day and Baby Sy, Piet van Heerde, and Henk Laros had 3 points.

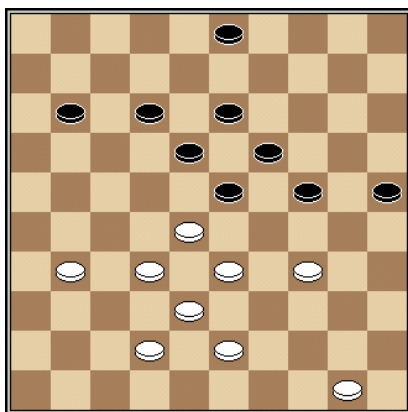
Baba Sy  
Hartevelt

- Piet van Heerde

0-2

06-01-1960

1.32-28	17-21	2.37-32	19-23	3.28x19	14x23	4.34-29	23x34
5.40x29	10-14	6.45-40	5-10	7.40-34	14-19	8.31-26	21-27
9.32x21	16x27	10.41-37	18-22	11.46-41	10-14	12.38-32	27x38
13.43x32	20-25	14.37-31	14-20	15.31-27	22x31	16.26x37	13-18
17.32-28	18-22	18.28x17	11x22	19.42-38	19-24	20.38-32	6-11
21.33-28	22x33	22.29x38	24-29	23.34x23	25-30	24.35x24	20x18
25.39-33	11-17	26.32-28	8-13	27.44-39	9-14	28.37-32	14-19
29.41-37	4- 9	30.47-42	19-24	31.49-44	13-19	32.39-34	18-23
33.36-31	7-11	34.31-27	12-18	35.44-39	9-13	36.37-31	2- 8
37.31-26	1- 6	38.48-43	17-22	39.28x17	11x31	40.26x37	8-12
41.37-31	6-11	42.33-28	15-20	43.39-33	20-25		



The best move is now:

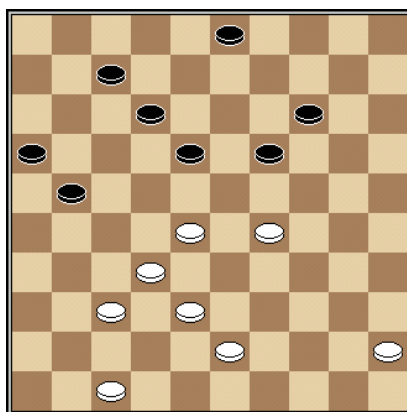
44.28-22 18x36 45.33-29 24x33  
46.38x16 36-41 47.50-45

44.50-45 12-17

45.34-29	23x34	46.31-27	18-23	47.43-39	34x43	48.38x49	23-29
49.42-37	29x38	50.32x43	13-18	51.49-44	18-23	52.37-32	23-29
53.44-40	25-30	54.40-35	30-34	55.43-38	3- 8		

Henk Laros - Baba Sy 1-1 06-01-1960  
Hartevelt

1.31-27	19-23	2.37-31	14-19	3.41-37	10-14	4.46-41	5-10
5.31-26	17-21	6.26x17	11x31	7.36x27	19-24	8.33-28	14-19
9.39-33	10-14	10.41-36	7-11	11.37-31	1- 7	12.42-37	11-17
13.27-22	18x27	14.31x11	6x17	15.34-29	23x34	16.40x29	13-18
17.44-39	18-23	18.29x18	12x23	19.50-44	9-13	20.36-31	17-21
21.44-40	4- 9	22.39-34	23-29	23.34x23	24-30	24.35x24	20x18
25.43-39	14-20	26.39-34	20-24	27.49-43	7-12	28.43-39	9-14
29.48-43	14-20	30.31-26	18-23	31.26x17	12x21	32.34-29	23x34
33.40x29	20-25	34.29x20	15x24	35.39-34	13-18	36.34-29	8-12
37.29x20	25x14	38.33-29	2- 7				



			39.28-23	19x28	40.32x23	21-26
41.45-40	7-11	42.40-34	16-21	43.34-30	12-17	44.23x12
45.30-24	8-13	46.29-23	21-27	47.38-33	11-17	48.43-39
49.37-32	17-21	50.33-28	21-27	51.32x21	26x17	52.39-34
53.28-22	31-36					

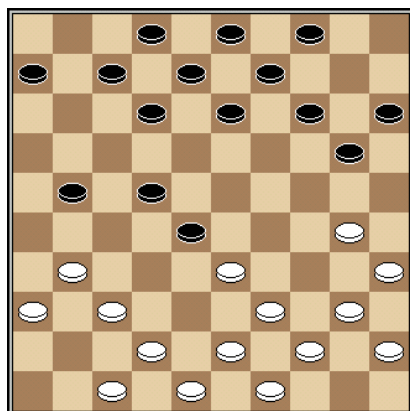


Theo Tielrooy  
Hartevelt

- Baba Sy

0-2 06-01-1960

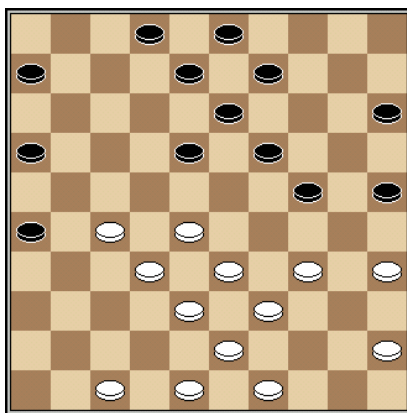
1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	14-19
5.33-28	17-22	6.28x17	11x22	7.39-33	5-10	8.44-39	10-14
9.50-44	7-11	10.46-41	1- 7	11.32-28	23x32	12.37x17	11x22
13.41-37	18-23	14.34-30	16-21	15.38-32	23-28	16.32x23	19x28



17.31-26	21-27	18.42-38	13-18	19.37-31	6-11	20.33-29	20-25
21.40-34	9-13	22.38-32	28x37	23.31x42	22-28	24.43-38	18-22
25.29-24	13-19	26.24x13	8x19	27.44-40	12-18	28.30-24	19x30
29.35x24	7-12	30.48-43	3- 8	31.40-35	14-19	32.24x13	8x19
33.38-33	11-17	34.42-37	18-23	35.43-38	2- 7	36.36-31	27x36
37.38-32	19-24	38.35-30	24x35	39.32-27	22x42	40.33x 2	15-20
41.47x38	23-29	42.34x23	20-24	43. 2x30	25x32		

Baba Sy - Eddy Holstvoogd 1-1 07-01-1960  
Hartevelt

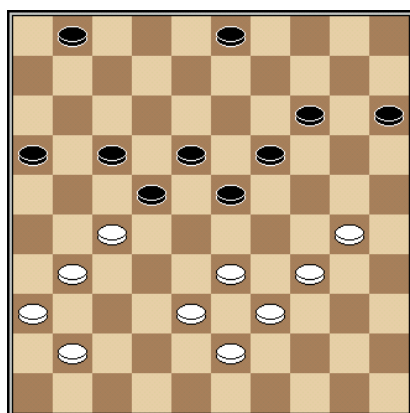
1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x34	3.40x29	12-18	4.44-40	7-12
5.37-32	1- 7	6.41-37	19-23	7.28x19	14x34	8.40x29	10-14
9.50-44	18-23	10.29x18	12x23	11.46-41	7-12	12.32-28	23x32
13.37x28	14-19	14.41-37	5-10	15.44-40	10-14	16.40-34	20-25
17.37-32	14-20	18.42-37	17-21	19.31-26	13-18	20.26x17	11x22
21.28x17	12x21	22.36-31	21-26	23.31-27	9-13	24.32-28	4- 9
25.37-32	20-24						



		26.34-30	25x34	27.39x30	18-23	28.43-39	15-20
29.30-25	2- 7	30.25x14	9x20	31.48-43	20-25	32.45-40	7-12
33.40-34	12-18	34.34-30	25x34	35.39x30	6-11	36.30-25	8-12
37.47-42	11-17	38.42-37	17-21	39.43-39	12-17	40.49-44	17-22
41.28x17	21x12	42.33-28	3- 9	43.38-33	9-14	44.35-30	24x35
45.44-40	35x44	46.39x50	12-17	47.50-45			

Benedictus Springer - Baba Sy 1-1 07-01-1960  
Hartevelt

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.33-28	23x32	4.37x28	17-22
5.28x17	11x22	6.41-37	10-14	7.37-32	14-19	8.32-27	5-10
9.34-30	10-14	10.30-25	6-11	11.40-34	11-17	12.39-33	19-23
13.44-39	14-19	14.25x14	19x10	15.34-29	23x34	16.39x30	13-19
17.30-25	10-14	18.35-30	9-13	19.50-44	17-21	20.44-40	21x32
21.38x27	12-17	22.33-29	7-12	23.42-38	17-21	24.46-41	21x32
25.38x27	19-23	26.47-42	23x34	27.30x39	13-19	28.42-38	8-13
29.39-33	19-23	30.33-29	23x34	31.40x29	14-19	32.29-24	19x30
33.25x34	4- 9	34.38-33	9-14	35.43-39	13-19	36.45-40	2- 8
37.40-35	8-13	38.49-43	19-23	39.43-38	13-19	40.48-43	12-17
41.35-30							



14-20	42.30-24	20x40	43.39-34	40x29	44.33x13	18x 9
45.27x29	15-20	46.31-27	9-14	47.41-37	14-19	48.37-32

It's convenient to say something else about Ben Springer, a man that - like Reinier Keller - was very critical about the players and tried to be in the tournaments to see the game of different players. He wrote in January<sup>35</sup> 1960 in his article *Where are we with the upbringing of new blood* about the match played by my father, Cor Westerveld, and Jan Mekken for the Senior Noord-Holland Championship.

The following match was played by two players who had passed or were close to 50 crosses (fifty years). It isn't clear to me for what they would have requested access to this championship. That they are convinced they had no possibilities in this tournament is something I accept. But precisely because of that it's not clear why they participated, unless it was to exclusively show that they were still as strong as the young ones. This too is in the end an aspiration! Whatever it was, now we're going to show the match.

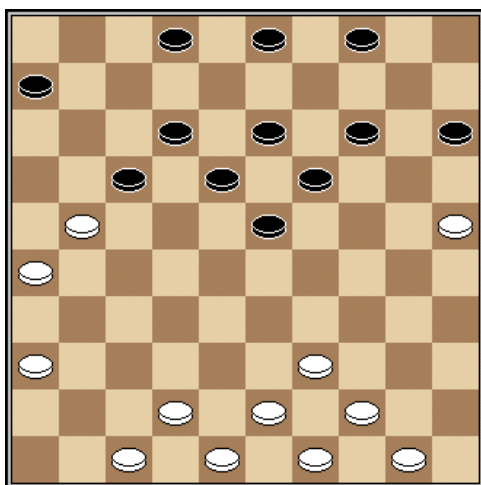
This coverage was a motif for Jan Mekken to write a furious letter to Het Damspel since he was a man closer to his thirties than fifties. But Mekken and my father were not victims of the poisonous pen of Springer. What Springer said about the young Beliën of barely 24 years was also very shocking. We followed for this review the match 28. 27-21

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<sup>35</sup> Revista holandesa *Het Damspel*, número 1, año 1960. page. 3

J. J. Beliën (24 años) - Henk Smit (38 años) 0-2 00-09-1959  
Campeonato de Noord-Holland seniores

1.32-28	17-21	2.31-26	12-17	3.37-32	7-12	4.36-31	19-23
5.28x19	14x23	6.41-36	1- 7	7.34-30	21-27	8.32x21	16x27
9.31x22	18x27	10.30-25	12-18	11.25x14	10x19	12.46-41	8-12
13.41-37	5-10	14.35-30	10-14	15.30-25	17-22	16.37-31	14-20
17.25x14	19x10	18.33-29	23x34	19.40x29	10-14	20.45-40	13-19
21.38-33	18-23	22.29x18	12x23	23.40-34	22-28	24.33x22	27x18
25.34-30	11-17	26.30-25	9-13	27.31-27	7-12	28.27-21	3- 8



In this position where the black were going to play 28. .... 3-8, Springer said of the last white move 28. 27-21

How is it possible?! This is a young man who plays the white ones. He plays as if he were a man of sixty who has played his entire life and has now because of his routine created his own move placing himself at the corners of the board. Not even the least bit of knowledge about checker strategy! *This has to be fixed!*

29.43-38	18-22	30.39-33	13-18	31.44-39	6-11	32.21-16	8-13
33.16x 7	2x11	34.42-37	22-27	35.49-43	17-22	36.37-31	27-32
37.38x27	22-28	38.33x22	23-28	39.22x33	14-20	40.25x23	18x49

And who is this Henk Smit? Well, one of Ton Sijbrands' teachers! If we study Ton Sijbrands' games, the style of Henk Smit (1921-2000) is also noteworthy in his moves. Sijbrands had always had so much appreciation for this master that he even dedicated a book to him<sup>36</sup>.

Then one wonders; why did he write these things? Well, only to show that Baba Sy was Holland's checker revolution. The game was at a critical phase. There wasn't much new talent and nobody had interest in playing checkers anymore. Baby Sy changed the view in Holland. Suddenly everybody was talking about him in Holland, and the game received a huge impulse. Everyone wanted to be like Baba Sy, and one of them was the young Tonny Sijbrands.

Then weren't there checker activities for youngsters in Holland? Yes, effectively there were, but very few. One of the people who overstressed this task was Josef Geuke, who organized several young people for a bicycling race around Holland to play checkers with other teams of young people. Among them were Eddy Holstvoogd and Martín Jonkhart. There were also young players in Huissen, Amsterdam, and other places, but there was very little activity. The world champion Piet Roozenburg<sup>37</sup> saw rapidly that young Eddy Holstvoogd could play an important role in the game of checkers in Holland. The fact that young Holstvoogd had finished 2nd at the junior championship in Holland in 1959 was a signal enough for Roozenburg to draw this conclusion.

But it wasn't just this facet of Holstvoogd that called Roozenburg's attention. He also took notice of Holstvoogd's leadership in topics like analysis of games, his trips around Holland on a bicycle, playing against other young players, and his comments about young groups from other cities. All these facts together were according to Roozenburg an indication that Holstvoogd could occupy an important place in Holland's checker life.

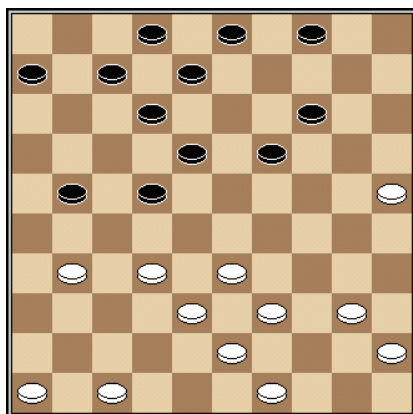
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<sup>36</sup> **SIJBRANDS, TON** (2008) Henk Smit – mijn leermeester en inspirator

<sup>37</sup> Revista holandesa *Het Damspel*, number 1, 1960. Page. 15

Going back to Baba Sy's activities, after his stay in the city of Ijmuiden he left for the city of Haarlem. In this city he gave a simultaneous for two hours against 34 adversaries, winning a total of 28 games and tying against 6 adversaries. In the same city Baba Sy played a tournament against 4 people, finishing in the first place. Highlighted was his victory on February 1 1960 against Wim de Jong, one of Holland's best players in those years.

Wim de Jong	- Baba Sy	0-2	01-02-1960
Torneo en Haarlem			
1.33-29 17-22	2.39-33 20-25	3.44-39 14-20	4.50-44 20-24
5.29x20 25x14	6.32-27 19-23	7.37-32 14-19	8.35-30 10-14
9.33-29 11-17	10.30-24 19x30	11.34x25 23x34	12.40x29 14-19
13.38-33 6-11	14.31-26 22x31	15.26x37 5-10	16.32-28 1- 6
17.37-32 19-24	18.29x20 15x24	19.39-34 13-19	20.44-40 9-13
21.43-39 17-22	22.28x17 11x22	23.48-43 10-14	24.42-38 24-29
25.34x23 19x37	26.41x32 13-19	27.36-31 16-21	

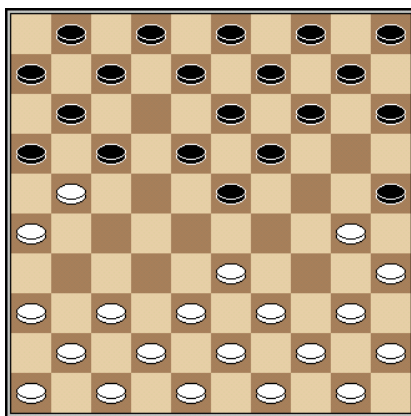


29.26x17 12x21	30.33-29 21-26	31.32x21 26x17	28.31-26 22-27
33.41-37 17-22	34.38-33 6-11	35.29-24 19x30	32.46-41 7-12
37.34-29 14-19	38.37-32 8-13	39.47-41 2- 8	36.25x34 11-16
41.40-34 19-23	42.29-24 23-29	43.34x21 16x20	40.41-37 12-17

Next the Checker Association organized him a match in the city of Scheveningen against some expert checker players from La Haya during the encounter of six players. There he lost by a mere shot in the opening against L. P. Kaïn whom any experienced player should know.

**Kaïn, L.P. - Baba Sy 15-02-1960**

1. 31-26	18-23	2. 32-27	12-18
3. 34-30	20-25	4. 27-21	25x34?
5. 40x29	23x34	6. 21x23	19x28
7. 33x22	7-12	8. 39x30	



Here Baba fell into Kaïn's trap. He had to capture with 4. ... 16x27 and then with 37-32 white does not gain a pawn, because later 25x34 white must capture two pawns with 32x12 and not 40x29.

Baba had a lot of fun with that since he was a man who knew how to lose and willingly showed people how he had fallen into the trap. This is the general tendency with African players of checkers. They are extremely emotional and their sense of aesthetics is highly developed. A combination of beautiful shot causes to them an explosion of undeniable joy, so much that the loser even feels happy to be among them. Thus in this encounter of six players Baba Sy finished in the



second place together with L.P. Kaïn, and after the first round Ch. A. Mulder<sup>38</sup>. Of this tournament we know very little because of absence of data. We know he won against Fenno Boog and Philip. J. Ham.

It was in mid winter and Baba Sy with his charming, cheerful, and perceptive personality had made friends with all reporters from several newspapers. It was his turn to play against his opponent and as usual Baba Sy wanted to light another cigarette from the Gaulloise Brand. But to his surprise the little box no longer had cigarettes in it. No matter, Baba Sy found solutions for everything. He looks at the reporter's tables and quickly finds the man who always smoked the biggest brand of Dutch cigars, as big as the famous Zeppelins too expensive to give away. With the elegant rhythm of a black man Baba Sy approaches the reporter directly and asks in a characteristic French coming from his throat: "do you by any chance have a small cigarette for me?" This way Baba Sy also gets a Zeppelin cigar and then takes a match between his finger and thumb and lights it up with a charming gesture, avoiding lighting up his curly beard by a hair. His colleagues laugh. The reporter of the Zeppelin plays the part of affronted, saying: "again another professional player from Senegal".

That was Baba Sy whom it was said that needed a cigarette for three games. After a game he had his ashtray completely filled with butts. According to custom he had moments to clear his throat with much noise during a game of checkers, the objective being to call the other player's attention. Baba wasn't worried about Holland's customs, of not making any noise. He cleaned his throat in this manner to later continue moving towards the bathroom where he would throw the mucus.

With time Baba Sy showed problems with high blood pressure, which caused him pain sometimes keeping him from continuing his matches. That was the case in a game against Jan de Ruiter (Hengelo 1970) and against Anatoli Gantwarg (Suiker Tournament 1971) whose players

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<sup>38</sup> Getting in touch with Ch. A. Mulder and he neither kept his game against Baba Sy.

were so sportive that they did not demand a regulatory<sup>39</sup> victory. The Dutch like Baba Sy, this legendary Senegalese player, and do everything to accommodate his visits to Holland. It is known that the checker master of Amsterdam Jan Metz always gave him a new tie. Everyone did everything possible so Baba Sy could dress like a true gentleman.

## **The Russian Championship, 1960**

It is necessary to know how the other tournaments around the world were developing, in this case Russia. Between 4 and 27 May the Russian Championship was played in Minsk. Shchegolev and Kuperman didn't play in this tournament, even though it was believed in the beginning that they would. The master Andreiko (1942-1976) hadn't classified at preliminaries and thus couldn't participate either.

This championship was won by Michael Korchov of 24 years of age and with this he won the Russian Championship for the second time. Korchov couldn't participate in the World Checker Championship due to the fact that this right had already been acquired by Shchegolev, but Korchov had qualified with this result for the following Challenge Mondiale.

From 4 until 21 July of 1960 the International Tournament in Kiev was played, in which Reinier Cornelis Keller participated. His tenth place in this tournament was really frustrating and it was clearly seen that Holland needed young blood to fortify its position as the world leaders in checkers, which it had always had. It was Baba Sy who was going to help enormously to achieve this goal and this is the purpose of this book - to demonstrate the natural talent that helped us have much interest in the game of checkers and to develop our best capacities for the game.

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<sup>39</sup> **SIJBRANDS, Ton** (1989) Baba Sy, le Grand Livre de Baba Sy (het Groot Baba Sy boek), An edition of "Dammen", page 13.

## The French Championship, 1960

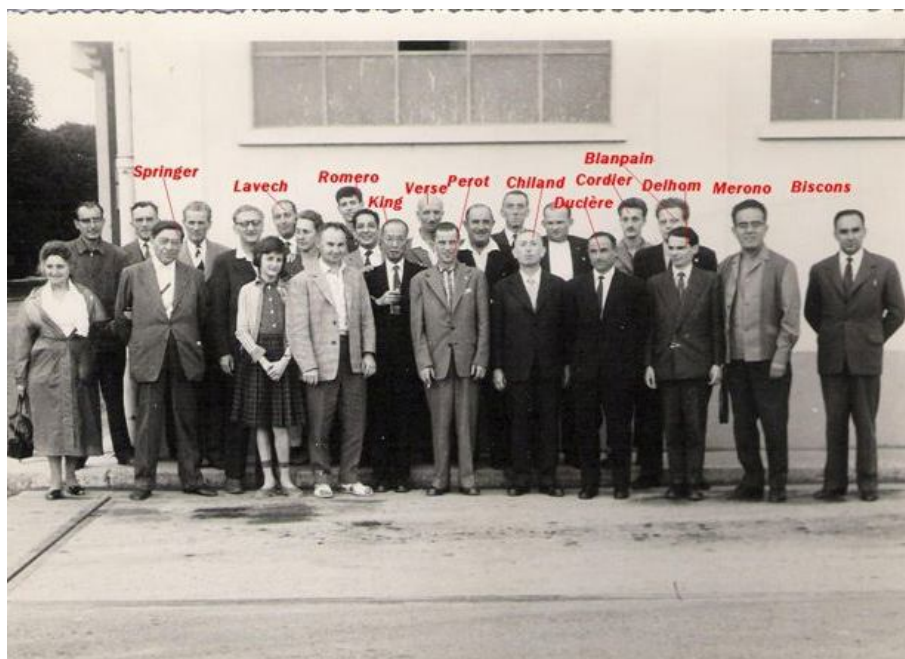
In August 1960, precisely from the 13th til the 21st, the French senior championship was played in Romilly south of Seine. Abel Verse was champion for winning against his direct rival Li-Tchoan King in the last round. The ex-champion of the world Bernard Springer attended this championship with the purpose of preparing a paper. Unluckily he couldn't finish this job as he died during this championship. In the picture below obtained from the players a few days before his death one can clearly see that Springer already had problems with his health with his vacant look and emaciated appearance.



**Sitting from left to right: Ben Springer, X, X, X, Delhom, Henri Chiland, Pierre Pérot, Li-Tchoan King. Standing from left to right: Simonata, Pierre Dionis, Abel Verse, Lavech, George Post, Émile Biscons, Merono, Fourgous**  
**Photo: From Dr. Diego Rodríguez kindness - France**

## French Championship, 1960

N°	Names	V	K	D	P	L	D	C	P	B	M	S	F	B	F	H	Points
01	Abel Verse	X	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	21
02	Li Tchoan King	0	X	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	20
03	Pierre Dionis	1	1	X	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	17
04	Georges Post	0	1	1	X	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	17
05	Lavech de Chancy	1	1	1	2	X	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	16
06	Raoul Delhom	0	1	1	2	2	X	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	15
07	Henri Chiland	1	0	1	1	1	1	X	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	14
08	Pierre Perot	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	X	1	2	0	0	2	1	2	14
09	Emile Biscons	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	X	1	2	1	1	1	1	13
10	Merono	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	X	1	1	1	2	2	13
11	Jean Simonata	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	X	0	1	2	2	13
12	Fourgous	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	X	1	1	1	12
13	Boucher	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	X	1	2	10
14	Dr. Fayet	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	X	1	8
15	Hosanna	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	X	7



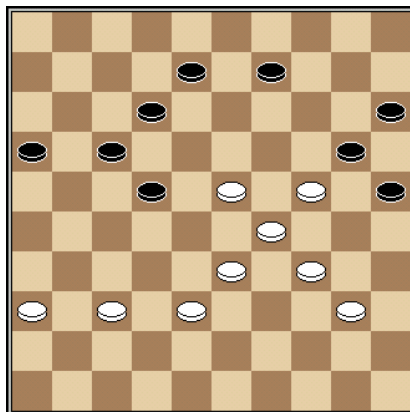
**Émile Biscons, Baba Sy's discoverer on the far right**  
**Photo: Dr. Diego de Rodríguez's kindness**

We see that Émile Biscons was also a good player as he also participated in some French senior tournaments. So he knew perfectly well what he was doing when he suggested his Federation to let Baba Sy participate in the French championship. He knew before that Baba Sy had great possibilities of winning the tournament. He wasn't wrong since it was the first place that Baba Sy occupied in this championship and number 2 in the world checker championship. Next is another photo of Baba Sy's discoverer Émile Biscons on the far right. One can also see Ben Springer in better health that time.

In honor of Baba Sy's discoverer we mirror his match against Pierre Pérot here.

Émile Biscons - Pierre Perot 1-1 20-08-1960  
 Campeonato de Francia

1.32-28 18-23	2.33-29 23x32	3.37x28 19-24	4.39-33 14-19
5.41-37 20-25	6.29x20 25x14	7.37-32 16-21	8.31-26 11-16
9.44-39 12-18	10.36-31 17-22	11.26x17 22x11	12.50-44 7-12
13.46-41 15-20	14.41-36 20-25	15.32-27 12-17	16.28-23 19x28
17.33x22 17x28	18.27-21 16x27	19.31x33 14-19	20.34-30 25x34
21.40x29 10-14	22.35-30 5-10	23.30-25 10-15	24.38-32 19-23
25.44-40 23x34	26.40x29 1- 7	27.42-37 7-12	28.47-42 14-19
29.39-34 11-17	30.43-38 2- 7	31.49-44 7-11	32.37-31 11-16
33.34-30 17-21	34.30-24 19x30	35.25x34 9-14	36.32-28 21-26
37.45-40 26x37	38.42x31 6-11	39.44-39 14-20	40.48-42 4- 9
41.42-37 11-17	42.37-32 9-14	43.31-26 3- 9	44.34-30 20-25
45.30-24 14-20	46.39-34 18-22	47.32-27 22x31	48.26x37 13-18
49.28-23 18-22			



50.37-31 17-21	51.31-26 22-27	52.26x17 12x21
53.38-32 27x38	54.33x42 21-27	55.23-18 16-21
57.18-12 8x17	58.24-19 14x23	59.29x18 17-22
61.42-38 22-28	62.12- 7 28-32	63.38-33 32-37
65.33-28 42-47	66.28-23 21-26	67.23-18 27-32
69.13- 8 37-41	70. 8- 3 41-46	71. 1- 6 46-23
73. 3-21 26x17	74. 6x48	72.34-30 25x34

## CHAPTER 8

### 1960 Baba Sy, second in the World Checker's Championship

Returning to Baba Sy, he unveiled his real talent in the World Championship of Checkers (which greatly emphasized his second classification) on October 1960 among the Russians and the Grand Masters Wjatsjeslaw Chtchogoliev and Iser Kuperman. This was the beginning of his career full of awards. Next we reflect on the championship players just as it is stated in a program booklet<sup>40</sup>.

We note in this booklet that R. van Ast from Australia finally didn't participate in this championship and his place was occupied by the Frenchman Pierre Dionis. We also see that in 1960 Baba Sy still couldn't write his signature (until 1964) as the autograph that I have from him from this year contained in this book is very different.

The 26 rounds were played in Holland and the program booklet<sup>41</sup> indicates the cities to play in. There were some changes and it was finally played in the following places:

Ámsterdam - round 1, Krasnapolsky Hotel, Friday October 14; Jmuiden/Velsen - round 2, Saturday October 15; Rotterdam - round 3, Monday October 17; Ámsterdam - round 4, Krasnapolsky Hotel, Tuesday October 18 funded by De Twentsche Bank; Ámsterdam - round 5, Krasnapolsky Hotel, Wednesday October 19 funded by The Coca-Cola Export Corporation Holland Branch; Ámsterdam - round 6, Krasnapolsky Hotel, Thursday October 20 funded by the the *Het Parool* newspaper; La Haya - round 7 in Pulchri Studio, Friday October 21; Albasserdam - round 8, the Town House<sup>42</sup> (Dorpshuis, Saturday October 22; Utrecht - round 9, Monday October 24; Rotterdam - round 10, Tuesday October 25; Dordrecht - round 11, Wednesday October 26; Goes - round 12, Thursday October 27;

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<sup>40</sup> Courtesy of Bé Speelman of Gieten

<sup>41</sup> Courtesy of Bé Speelman of Gieten

<sup>42</sup> Here in Spain the Town House in many occasions it is called "Casino".

Vlissingen - round 13, Scheldekwartier, Friday October 28; Helmond - round 14, Saturday October 29; Maastricht - round 15, Monday October 31; Zwolle - round 16, Tuesday November 1; Arnhem - round 17, Wednesday November 2; Almelo - round 18, Thursday November 3; Hengelo - round 19, Friday November 4, Gieten - round 20, Braams Hotel, Saturday November, 5; Assen - round 21, Monday November 7; Groningen - round 22, Tuesday November 8; Hoogezand-Sappemeer - round 23, Wednesday November 9; Veendam - round 24, Thursday November 10; Leeuwarden - round 25, Zalen Schaaf, Friday November 11; Haarlem - round 26, Concertgebouw, Saturday November 12.



**Iser Kuperman trying on the cap of the city council's messenger, on October 13  
City council's reception in Amsterdam.**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6704.**

**Photographer: Wim van Rossem**



On Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1960 the opening of the official checker world championship took place, in Amsterdam, after the official reception took place in the city council. Kuperman joked and wanted to try on, by all means the hat of the city council's messenger. All the players had gathered in the "De Roode Leeuw" Hotel, in Amsterdam. The grand opening dinner was hosted by the city of Amsterdam and aside from the participants, the secretary of Amsterdam and his wife were there too. After dinner the official opening took place, welcoming the participants and guests.



**Iser Kuperman in conversation with Barend Dukel, on October 13  
City council's reception in Amsterdam.**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6702.**

**Photographer: Wim van Rossem**



**From left to right: Baba Sy, Iser Kuperman, Kaplan, Deslauriers, Barend Dukel and Sen A. Kaw, on October 13. City council's reception in Amsterdam.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6703.  
Photographer: Wim van Rossem**



**From left to right: Baba Sy, Iser Kuperman, Kaplan, Deslauriers, Barend Dukel and Sen A. Kaw, on October 13. City council's reception in Amsterdam.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6705.  
Photographer: Wim van Rossem**

Baba Sy would always stand out with his way of smoking a Gualoise, one after the other. Surely not very contenting to Shchegolev , who clearly disliked this Brand. Happily and spectator would occasionally offer a somewhat more peaceful cigar to Baba Sy. This way the smoke was less disturbing to the participants. In those years smoking was no banned yet.

### World Championship of Checkers 1960

Pl		Naam	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	We	Wi	Re	Ve	Pt	SB
1		<u>Viacheslav Shchegolev</u>	X	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	26	16	10	0	42	994
2		<u>Baba Sy</u>	1	X	0	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	26	17	7	2	41	917
3		<u>Iser Koepman</u>	0	2	X	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	26	16	8	2	40	917
4		<u>Marcel Deslauriers</u>	1	1	0	X	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	26	10	14	2	34	769
5		<u>Raymond SaintFort</u>	0	0	0	1	X	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	26	10	9	7	29	633
6		<u>Freek Gordin</u>	0	1	1	1	0	0	X	2	0	2	1	1	2	2	26	8	10	8	26	521
		<u>Jan Bom</u>	0	1	0	1	1	1	X	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	26	6	14	6	26	568
8		<u>Louis Sen A Kauw</u>	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	X	2	1	2	0	2	1	26	7	11	8	25	558
9		<u>Hugo Verpoest</u>	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	X	2	2	1	2	2	26	6	11	9	23	485
		<u>Baris Dukel</u>	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	X	0	2	2	2	26	4	15	7	23	504
11		<u>Abel Verse</u>	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	X	1	1	2	26	5	9	12	19	337
		<u>Pierre Dionis</u>	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	X	1	2	26	4	11	11	19	405
13		<u>Ayméri de Descallar</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	X	2	26	3	7	16	13	227
14		<u>Ante Agliardi</u>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	X	26	1	2	23	4	109

All the participants were present, with the exception of the Haitian Saint-Fort, who had communicated on Saturday that he couldn't participate in the world championship, due to lack of cooperation from his own Checkers Federation in Haiti. It was then a huge surprise the next day, when Saint-Fort suddenly arrived on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> to the airport of Amsterdam. He was directly sent to Rotterdam in a KLM car with 2 days of delay. There the participants prepared an

enthusiastic welcome. His first question after the Greetings was to know where Mr. Springer was. After learning that Springer had suddenly died some months ago, Saint-Fort solemnly removed his hat and sank in a prayer for few moments, with tears falling down his cheeks. In this way the Haitian gave honor in his way to the grand master Benedicto Springer.






















**From left to right: Wladimir Kaplan (Kuperman's coach), Iser Kuperman, Mr. Tambiev from the Russian Federation, Viacheslav Shchegolev ; and the leader of the delegation, Mr. Kozlov.**

**Photo: FMJD**

The different rounds were played in several cities and the final round was made in Haarlem's Concertgebouw. Finally on November 12<sup>th</sup> 1960, Shchegolev was named as the new world champion and spontaneously made the dethroned Kuperman and Baba Sy in the tribute.

We also show the results from the 1956 championship, with the purpose to know who the best players in the world were back then.

### World Championship of Checkers 1956

Pl		Naam	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	We	WI	Re	Ve	Pt	SB
1		<u>Marcel Deelaurs</u>	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	18	9	9	0	27	441
2		<u>Cees Keller</u>	1	X	1	1	0	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	18	9	8	1	26	428
3		<u>Jan Bom</u>	1	1	X	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	18	7	10	1	24	395
		<u>Piet Rozenburg</u>	1	1	1	X	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	18	7	10	1	24	381
5		<u>Geert van Dijk</u>	1	2	1	1	X	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	18	7	9	2	23	386
6		<u>Wim de Jong</u>	1	0	1	2	2	X	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	18	8	6	4	22	362
7		<u>Claude Gourmier</u>	1	0	1	1	0	1	X	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	18	7	7	4	21	316
		<u>Abel Verée</u>	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	X	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	18	6	9	3	21	337
9		<u>Wim Hulsman</u>	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	18	3	14	1	20	346
10		<u>Michel Hissard</u>	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	X	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	18	6	7	5	19	289
		<u>Li Tohoan King</u>	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	X	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	2	18	5	9	4	19	321
12		<u>Hugo Verpoest</u>	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	18	2	13	3	17	282
13		<u>Pierre Dionis</u>	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	0	14	4	14	235
14		<u>M. Merono</u>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	X	2	1	1	0	2	18	3	7	8	13	196
		<u>Jacques Amzand</u>	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	X	1	1	2	2	18	2	9	7	13	191
16		<u>Marcel Navarro</u>	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	1	18	1	10	7	12	191
		<u>Roland Forclaz</u>	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	X	2	1	18	1	10	7	12	188
18		<u>Maurice Verleene</u>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	X	1	18	1	7	10	9	137
19		<u>Edmondo Fanelli</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	X	18	0	6	12	6	86



**From left to right: Iser Kuperman (Russia); H. Verpoest (Belgium); A. Verse (France); B. Dukel (Holland); P. Dionis (France); J.M. Bom (Holland); Baba Sy (Senegal); Shchegolev (Russia); Aymeri de Descallar (Maroc); Marcel Deslauriers (Canada); Freek Gordijn (Holland); Ante Agliardi (Monnaco); Louis Sen a Kauw ( French Guyana).**  
**Photo: “Het Damspel” Magazine, January 1961.**

Now this mohammedan, with his distinguished footsteps and his elegant way of tilting his head towards people, dresses well. He is no longer a driver, but an official. Connoisseurs said that he couldn't be world champion. Other said maybe he would end up in a remarkable place. After a few rounds you could see that the Russians were going to occupy the first spots.



**Baba Sy playing against Verpoest on October 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6724.  
Photographer: Harry Pot**



**Baba Sy playing against Verpoest on October 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6718.  
Photographer: Harry Pot**



**Baba Sy playing against Verpoest on October 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6725.  
Photographer: Harry Pot**





**Baba Sy playing against Verpoest on October 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6723.  
Photographer: Harry Pot**

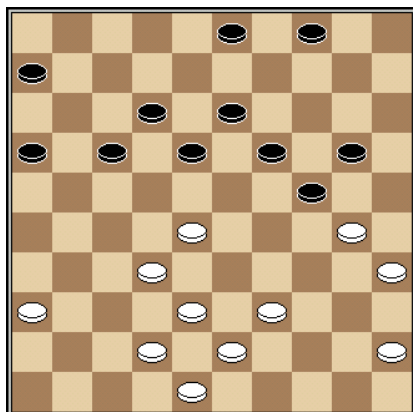


**Baba Sy playing against Verpoest on October 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6715.  
Photographer: Harry Pot**

Hugo Verpoest - Baba Sy 0-2 14-10-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.33-29	19-23	2.35-30	14-19	3.40-35	17-22	4.44-40	11-17
5.50-44	19-24	6.30x28	22x24	7.32-28	10-14	8.37-32	14-19
9.41-37	5-10	10.38-33	10-14	11.42-38	6-11	12.47-42	1- 6
13.46-41	17-22	14.28x17	12x21	15.31-26	7-12	16.26x17	12x21
17.32-28	2- 7	18.34-29	21-26	19.39-34	18-23	20.29x18	13x22
21.28x17	11x22	22.43-39	22-28	23.33x22	24-29	24.34x23	19x17
25.39-33	14-19	26.44-39	8-13	27.37-32	17-21	28.41-37	21-27
29.32x21	26x17	30.37-32	13-18	31.49-43	9-13	32.40-34	7-12
33.34-30	20-24	34.33-28	15-20				



Baba Sy had prepared a trap in the composition. White cannot play:

35.30-25 18-22 36.25x23 22x44  
 37.43-39 44x33 38.38x20 12-18  
 39.23x21 16x47

37.42x31	12x 3	38.39-33	9-14	35.28-23	19x37	36.30x 8	3- 9
41.31-27	9-13	42.38-32	17-21	39.45-40	14-19	40.40-34	3- 9
45.33-28	11-17	46.36-31	24-29	43.43-38	6-11	44.34-30	20-24
49.48-42	9-14	50.30-25	19-24	47.31-26	4- 9	48.27-22	18x27
				51.42-37	13-19		



**Jan Bom in his match against A. Agliardi on  
October 14<sup>th</sup>. Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6717.  
Photographer: Harry Pot**



**Descaller playing against Shchegolev October 14<sup>th</sup>  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,  
911-6713. Photographer: Harry Pot**



**The first move in Descaller's match, while playing on October 14<sup>th</sup> against Kuperman. Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6714. Photographer: Harry Pot**



**Iser Kuperman versus Descaller playing on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6716. Photographer: Harry Pot**



**Barend Dukel versus Pierre Dionis playing on october 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,  
911-6719. Photographer: Harry Pot**



**Marcel Deslauriers playing against Freek Gordijn  
On October 14<sup>th</sup>. Photo: Nationaal Archief  
911-6720. Photographer: Harry Pot**

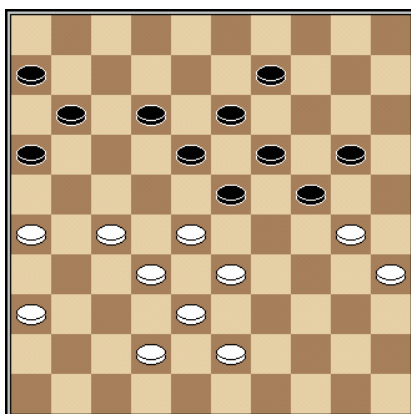




**Iser Kuperman versus Descaller  
On October 14<sup>th</sup>. Photo: Nationaal Archief  
911-6721. Photographer: Harry Pot**

Baba Sy - Jan Bom 1-1 15-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

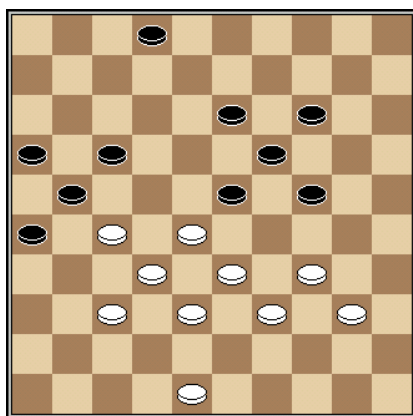
1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	14-19
5.46-41	5-10	6.34-29	23x34	7.40x29	10-14	8.44-40	18-23
9.29x18	12x23	10.32-28	23x32	11.37x28	7-12	12.41-37	12-18
13.37-32	1- 7	14.50-44	7-12	15.35-30	17-21	16.30-25	21-26
17.42-37	11-17	18.47-42	17-22	19.28x17	12x21	20.33-28	8-12
21.39-33	12-17	22.43-39	17-22	23.28x17	21x12	24.33-28	20-24
25.31-27	18-23	26.49-43	13-18	27.37-31	26x37	28.42x31	9-13
29.39-33	4- 9	30.44-39	2- 7	31.40-35	14-20	32.25x14	9x20
33.45-40	20-25	34.40-34	15-20	35.31-26	7-11	36.48-42	3- 9
37.34-30	25x34	38.39x30					



		9-14	39.30-25	12-17	40.36-31	17-21
41.26x17	11x22	42.28x17	23-28	43.32x12	13-18	44.12x23
45.17-12	16-21	46.27x16	26-31	47.12- 8	31-36	48. 8- 3
49. 3-26	41-46	50.38-33	14-19	51.25x23	46x 5	36-41

Iser Kuperman, I.      Baba Sy      2-0      17-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

1.35-30	20-25	2.40-35	15-20	3.45-40	10-15	4.50-45	5-10
5.30-24	20x29	6.33x24	19x30	7.35x24	14-19	8.40-35	19x30
9.35x24	10-14	10.44-40	14-19	11.40-35	19x30	12.35x24	9-14
13.45-40	3- 9	14.38-33	14-19	15.40-35	19x30	16.35x24	9-14
17.42-38	14-19	18.34-30	25x34	19.39x30	4- 9	20.32-28	9-14
21.37-32	17-22	22.28x17	11x22	23.31-27	22x31	24.36x27	18-23
25.30-25	19x30	26.25x34	13-19	27.47-42	15-20	28.43-39	6-11
29.41-37	11-17	30.46-41	17-21	31.49-44	1- 6	32.41-36	6-11
33.33-28	11-17	34.36-31	21-26	35.27-22	16-21	36.22x11	7x16
37.31-27	20-24	38.38-33	8-13	39.44-40	12-17	40.42-38	



Here Baba Sy failed to get a draw by:

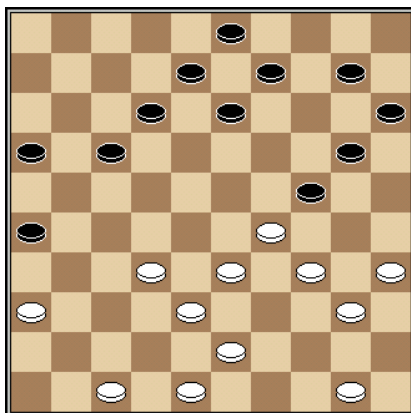
40...      24-30 41.34x25 17-22  
42.27x20 21-27 43.32x21 23x45

41.40-35	20-25	42.48-43	2- 7	43.34-30	25x34	44.39x30	23-29
45.43-39	7-12	46.30-25	12-18	47.25-20	24x15	48.33x24	19x30
49.35x24	17-22	50.28x17	21x12	51.32-28	12-17	52.38-32	

Baba Sy had already lost against Kuperman, on the third round in Rotterdam, on Monday October 17<sup>th</sup> and no one believed in a battle till the end. But Baba Sy fought like he had never before and reached the top again.

Baba Sy - Conde A. de Descallar 2-0 18-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	14-19
5.34-29	23x34	6.40x29	19-24	7.46-41	17-21	8.32-27	21x32
9.37x28	18-22	10.28x17	12x21	11.31-26	7-12	12.26x17	12x21
13.41-37	13-18	14.45-40	9-13	15.40-34	4- 9	16.38-32	1- 7
17.32-28	7-12	18.42-38	5-10	19.38-32	21-26	20.43-38	11-17
21.49-43	17-22	22.28x17	12x21	23.32-28	18-22	24.28x17	21x12
25.34-30	6-11	26.30x19	13x24	27.39-34	8-13	28.44-40	2- 8
29.37-32	11-17						

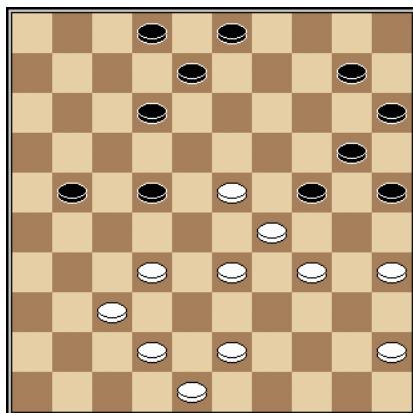


33.48x37	17-22	30.36-31	26x30	31.40-34	24x42	32.34x 5	12-18
37.37-42	33-39	34.37-32	8-12	35.32-28	22x33	36. 5-37	18-22
41.24-33	17-21	38.43x34	22-27	39.42-24	3- 8	40.50-44	12-17
45.44-39	12-17	42.33-28	21-26	43.34-29	8-12	44.35-30	26-31
49.24-20	15x24	46.28x 6	31-37	47.29-23	27-32	48.30-24	16-21
		50.23-18	13x22	51. 6x42			

A. Agliardi - Baba Sy 0-2 19-10-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28 19-23	2.28x19 14x23	3.33-28 23x32	4.37x28 10-14
5.41-37 14-19	6.39-33 5-10	7.44-39 10-14	8.50-44 17-22
9.28x17 11x22	10.31-27 22x31	11.36x27 6-11	12.38-32 11-17
13.43-38 18-23	14.49-43 12-18	15.46-41 7-12	16.34-29 23x34
17.40x29 19-23	18.44-40 23x34	19.40x29 20-25	20.32-28 14-20
21.37-32 1- 7	22.39-34 13-19	23.41-37 9-13	24.47-41 19-23
25.28x19 13x24	26.32-28 17-22	27.28x17 12x32	28.37x28 7-12
29.28-23 18-22	30.41-37 16-21	31.38-32 4-10	



33.29x38 24-30	34.35x24 20x18	35.43-39 10-14	36.38-33 14-19
37.42-38 18-22	38.45-40 19-23	39.33-29 12-18	40.40-35 21-26
41.48-43 8-12	42.39-33 2- 8	43.34-30 23x34	44.30x39 18-23
45.39-34 8-13	46.35-30 13-18	47.34-29 25x34	48.29x40 15-20
49.43-39 20-24	50.40-35 3- 9	51.39-34 9-14	52.34-30 14-19
53.30-25 12-17			

But the checker world championship organization did not lose any time to excel at something. Thus we see on October 19<sup>th</sup> 1960, that both the organization and the participants, dedicated to Manus ten Bruggecate a young man who had saved the life of 6 people from drowning in the water within a year. Since Manus was a fan of the game of checkers, he was invited as guest of honor, during a solemn act he was given several gifts, including a checkers board signed by the world champion Iser Kuperman (1959)



**Lifesaver Manus ten Bruggecate, honor guest on October 19<sup>th</sup>.  
 Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6731.  
 hotographer: Wim van Rossem**



**Lifesaver Manus ten Bruggecate, honor guest on October 19<sup>th</sup>.  
 Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6732.  
 hotographer: Wim van Rossem**



**Lifesaver Manus ten Bruggecate, honor guest on October 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6734.  
hotographer: Wim van Rossem**



**Lifesaver Manus ten Bruggecate, honor guest on October 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6736.  
hotographer: Wim van Rossem**



**Lifesaver Manus ten Bruggecate, honor guest on October 19<sup>th</sup>,  
doing the first move move in the match between  
Iser Kuperman versus Freek Gordijn.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6735.  
hotographer: Wim van Rossem**





**Lifesaver Manus ten Bruggecate, honor guest on October 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-6738.  
Photographer: Wim van Rossem**



**Participants of the Checker World Championship  
on October 19th. Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,  
911-6733. Photographer: Wim van Rossem**



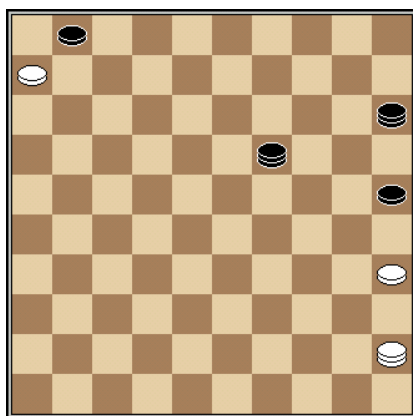
**Iser Kuperman agaisnt Freek Gordijn, on October 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,  
911-6738. Photographer: Wim van Rossem**

L. Sen A Kauw - Baba Sy 0-2 20-10-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	17-22	2.28x17	11x22	3.33-28	22x33	4.39x28	6-11
5.44-39	20-24	6.50-44	15-20	7.34-30	10-15	8.37-32	18-23
9.41-37	11-17	10.31-27	12-18	11.36-31	17-21	12.46-41	21-26
13.41-36	7-12	14.39-33	24-29	15.33x24	20x29	16.30-25	1- 7
17.40-34	29x40	18.45x34	15-20	19.34-30	20-24	20.44-39	5-10
21.27-22	18x27	22.31x22	12-18	23.37-31	26x37	24.42x31	18x27
25.31x22	7-12	26.36-31	12-18	27.31-27	8-12	28.47-41	10-15
29.48-42	14-20	30.25x14	9x20	31.41-36	20-25	32.42-37	25x34
33.39x30	15-20	34.49-44	20-25	35.44-39	25x34	36.39x30	16-21
37.27x16	18x27	38.32x21	23x41	39.36x47	2- 7	40.38-33	13-18
41.43-38	3- 8	42.38-32	4- 9	43.47-42	9-14	44.42-38	7-11
45.16x 7	12x 1	46.21-17	14-20	47.30-25	18-23	48.25x14	19x10
49.32-27	10-14	50.27-21	23-29	51.17-11	29-34	52.11- 6	8-12
53.38-32	24-29	54.33x24	34-39	55.32-28	39-43	56.28-23	43-48
57.21-17	12x21	58.23-18	48-34	59.18-13	34-12	60.24-20	14x25
61.13- 9	21-27	62. 9- 3	12-23	63. 3-26	27-32	64.26-42	23-19
65.42-29	32-37	66.29-47	19-13	67.47-36	13- 4	68.36-47	4-15
69.47-36	15-24	70.36-47	24-19	71.47-36	37-42	72.36-18	42-47
73.18-12	47-15	74.12-45					



Here, Baba Sy could have won immediately by:

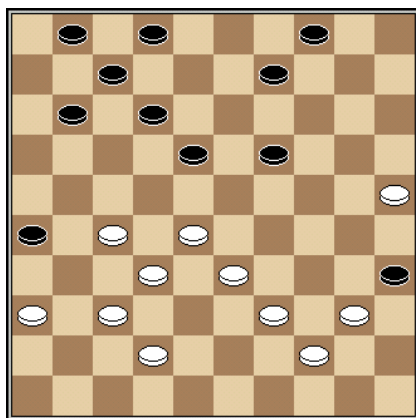
74..... 19-2 75.45-50 2-11

76.6x17 25-30 77.35x24 15x6

78.50-45 6-17

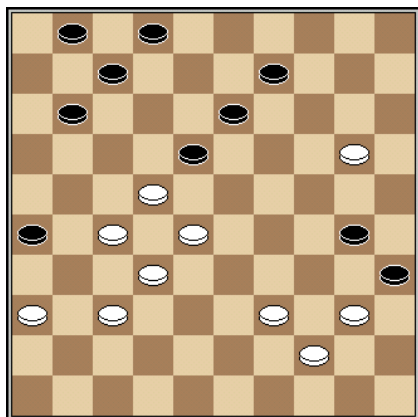
		15-24	75.45-34	19-28	76.34-43	28-50
77.43-49	50-45	78.49-43	24-19	79.43-38	45-23	80.38-15
81.15-47	13- 4	82.47-15	23-37	83.15-47	4-15	84.47-36
85.36- 4	32-41	86. 4-36	41-47	87.35-30	25x34	88.36-18
89.18-22	29-23	90.22-44	15- 4	91.44-11	34-40	

Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> was an immemorial day in the history of checkers. Barend Dukel, champion of Holland (1959), in two occasions, could have defeated the world champion Iser Kuperman. Firstly using a nice combination and then by trying to win a pawn. Instead of playing smoothly and taking advantage of Kuperman's lack of time, Barend Dukel thought he was going to win playing rapidly. But Kuperman miraculously saved and when Dukel could have forced a draw, the world champion captured illegally against the rules and forgot that capturing most of the pawns was mandatory. Dukel didn't see the big mistake either and makes a move, which he can't rectify afterwards the wrong move done before by his opponent since it's not allowed in the rules. The man behind the demonstration board also suffered from the mistake. Strong was the roar in the room when the wrong move was properly shown in the board. But who could have guessed that not him, but the players themselves have erred against the most basic rules of the game?



Here Barend Dukel could have won by a move to dama (king) :

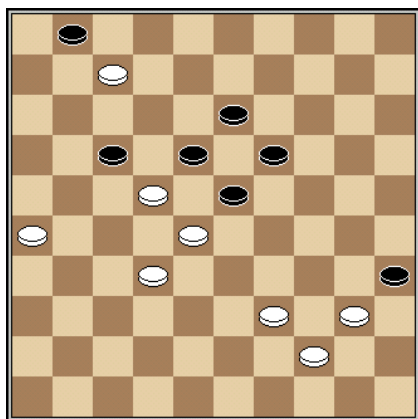
39.37-31 26x48 40.27-22 18x29  
41.39-34 48x30 42.25x3



Here Dukel could have won for another move he did not see:

45.20-14 9x20 46.28-23 18x29

47.27-21 26x28 48.32x14



Here white had captured a black pawn by 55. 16x7 and now black, according to the rules, has to capture two pieces 55..... 18x38, but Kuperman captures illegally only one piece 55. .... 1x12. Dukel didn't realise the mistake and instead of obliging his adversary to capture 2 pawns he decided to capture 56. 22x11 and then Dukel could no longer correct his wrong move and Kuperman won simply by 56. .... 12-17 , 57. 11x22 18x38!!



**Barend Dukel playing on 20 October against Iser Kuperman**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,**  
**911-6884 Photographer: Harry Pot**

Iser Kuperman also made a similar move against Pierre Dionis of France in the eighth round. Once more Kuperman had problems with his time and instead of capturing a pawn Kuperman moved one of his own pawns. Dionis didn't fall into the trap and before making his next move he demanded that Kuperman should capture according to the rules. This way Dionis maintained the balance of his position and made a draw.



**Shchegolev playing on 20 October against Jan Bom**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,**  
**911-6880 Photographer: Harry Pot**



**Shchegolev playing on 20 October against Jan Bom**  
**The man on the right is Leen de Rooy**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,**  
**911-6881 Photographer: Harry Pot**



**Shchegolev playing on 20 October against Jan Bom**  
**The man on the right is Leen de Rooy**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,**  
**911-6882 Photographer: Harry Pot**

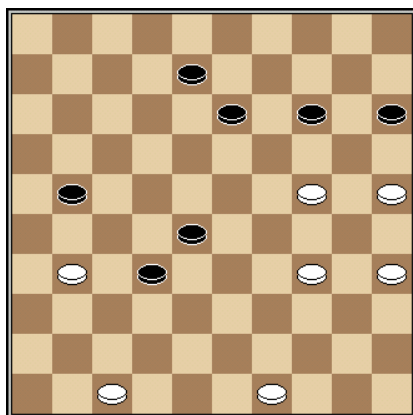


**Shchegolev playing on 20 October against Jan Bom**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,**  
**911-6883 Photographer: Harry Pot**



Baba Sy - Abel Verse 2-0 21-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	5-10
5.46-41	17-22	6.35-30	20-25	7.32-28	23x32	8.37x17	11x22
9.30-24	14-20	10.34-29	10-14	11.41-37	14-19	12.37-32	19x30
13.29-23	18x29	14.33x35	22-28	15.32x23	25-30	16.35x24	20x18
17.39-33	16-21	18.31-26	7-11	19.26x17	11x22	20.38-32	6-11
21.43-38	11-17	22.44-39	13-19	23.50-44	9-14	24.36-31	4-10
25.48-43	8-13	26.40-34	1- 7	27.31-26	2- 8	28.44-40	7-11
29.32-27	22x31	30.26x37	18-22	31.37-32	13-18	32.34-29	8-13
33.32-28	3- 8	34.40-35	19-23	35.28x19	14x34	36.39x30	22-28
37.33x22	18x27	38.38-33	17-22	39.43-38	12-18	40.33-28	22x33
41.38x29	11-17	42.45-40	17-21	43.42-37	18-22	44.30-25	10-14
45.40-34	22-28	46.29-24	27-32	47.37-31			

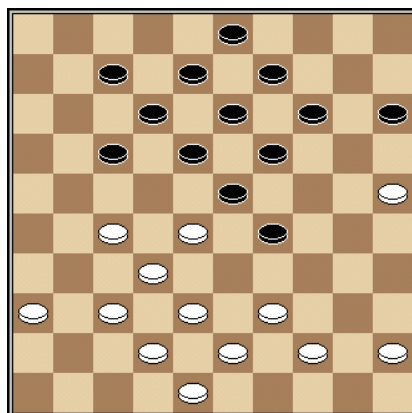


Here Verse could have drawn with 14-19!

				32-38	48.34-30	21-26
49.31-27	15-20	50.24x15	28-33	51.30-24	33-39	52.24-20
53.20x18	31x13	54.15-10	39-43	55.10- 5	43-48	56. 5-46
57.25-20	12-17	58.20-15	17-22	59.15-10	22-27	60.10- 5
61. 5-14	31-36	62.14- 3	48-26	63.46-28	26-31	64. 3-26
65.28-46	18- 7	66.46- 5	7- 1	67.35-30	13-18	68.30-25
69.26-48	1-40	70.48-42	38-43	71.49x38	40-49	72.38-33

Freek Gordijn - Baba Sy 1-1 22-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

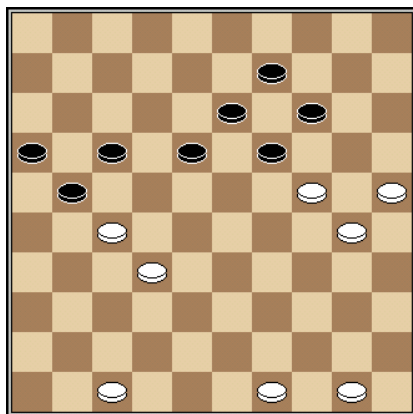
1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	14-19
5.33-28	17-22	6.28x17	11x22	7.39-33	5-10	8.44-39	10-14
9.50-44	6-11	10.33-28	22x33	11.39x28	11-17	12.44-39	16-21
13.34-30	20-24	14.39-33	14-20	15.31-27	21-26	16.30-25	9-14
17.37-31	26x37	18.42x31	7-11	19.43-39	4- 9	20.49-43	1- 6
21.47-42	17-22	22.28x17	11x22	23.31-26	22x31	24.26x37	6-11
25.46-41	2- 7	26.33-28	24-29	27.37-31	11-17	28.40-34	29x40
29.35x44	20-24	30.41-37	24-29	31.31-27			



				14-20	32.25x14	9x20	
33.37-31	29-33	34.38x29	23x34	35.39x30	19-23	36.28x19	13x35
37.42-38	18-23	38.43-39	20-24	39.38-33	23-29	40.33-28	24-30
41.48-42	29-34	42.42-38	34x43	43.38x49	8-13	44.31-26	13-18
45.49-43	30-34	46.43-38	7-11	47.44-39	34x43	48.38x49	11-16
49.49-43	15-20	50.43-38	3- 8	51.27-21	16x27	52.32x21	20-24
53.21-16	24-29	54.26-21	17x26	55.16-11	29-34	56.11- 6	35-40
57.38-32	40-44	58. 6- 1	44-49	59.32-27	49x16	60.36-31	26x37
61.28-22	18x27	62. 1x 2					

Baba Sy - Barend Dukel 1-1 24-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	14-19
5.46-41	5-10	6.34-29	23x34	7.40x29	10-14	8.32-28	16-21
9.31-26	18-22	10.37-32	11-16	11.41-37	20-24	12.29x20	15x24
13.45-40	7-11	14.40-34	1- 7	15.34-30	13-18	16.30-25	8-13
17.37-31	21-27	18.32x21	16x27	19.26-21	17x37	20.28x 8	3x12
21.42x22	18x27	22.33-28	12-17	23.38-33	17-22	24.28x17	11x22
25.33-29	24x33	26.39x17	2- 8	27.43-38	7-12	28.48-43	12x21
29.38-32	27x38	30.43x32	6-11	31.36-31	11-16	32.44-39	13-18
33.39-33	9-13	34.31-27	4- 9	35.35-30	8-12	36.33-29	12-17



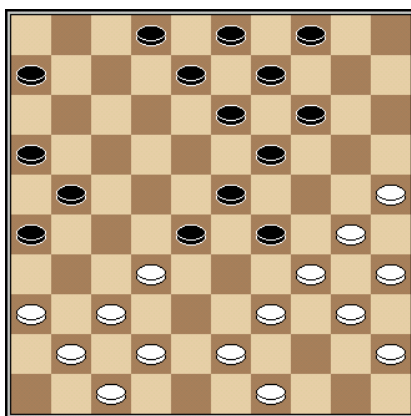
37.29-24	17-22	38.24-20	22x31	39.20-15	21-27	40.32x21	16x27
41.50-44	31-37	42.44-39	27-31	43.39-34			

In the seventh round one of the spectators asked Baba Sy what he thought about his place in the championship. “The tournament is not over yet” was his answer and a fierce gaze could be seen in his black eyes. The two Russians would soon be aware of that. Things started to get complicated for them. The 25 October of the tenth round Shchegolev was at a disadvantage in his game against Sy, but he was finally able to miraculously get a draw.

W. Sjtsjogoljew - Baba Sy 1-1 25-10-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.35-30	10-14	4.33-29	14-19
5.40-35	20-24	6.29x20	15x24	7.38-33	5-10	8.44-40	10-14
9.42-38	17-22	10.50-44	12-17	11.48-42	7-12	12.31-26	1- 7
13.37-31	22-28	14.33x22	18x27	15.31x22	17x28	16.41-37	11-17
17.46-41	7-11	18.30-25	17-21	19.26x17	12x21	20.34-30	21-26
21.39-34	24-29	22.44-39	16-21	23.38-32	11-16		



With his last move Sy had already prepared a trap.  
Apparently the whites can win a pawn by:

24.25-20 14x25 25.30-24 19x30

(if 29x20 then 34-30!)

26.35x22 26-31 27.37x17 16-21

28.17x26 23-29 29.34x23 13-18

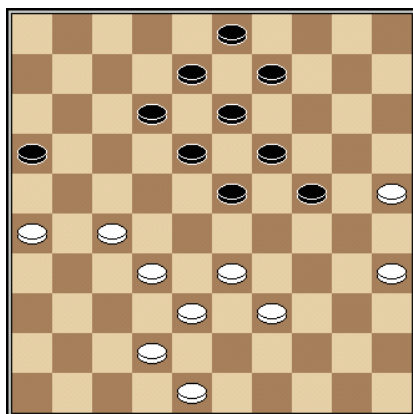
30.23x12 8x46!!

25.49-44	21-27	26.32x21	16x36	27.43-38	6-11	28.36-31	29-33
29.30-24	19x30	30.35x24	11-17	31.34-30	14-19	32.38x18	13x22
33.40-34	8-13	34.45-40	22-27	35.40-35	27-31	36.24x13	9x18
37.39-33	28x39	38.44-40	22-27	39.40-35	27-31	36.44-40	2- 8
41.25-20	3- 9	42.34x43	13-19	39.30-24	19x30	40.35x24	8-13
45.30-25	17-21	43.40-34	18-23	43.34-30	23-28	44.43-38	13-18
49.19-14	30-34	46.20-15	9-14	47.25-20	14x25	48.24-19	25-30
53.16- 2	18-23	50.14-10	34-40	51.10- 5	40-44	52. 5x16	44-50
		54. 2-35	50- 6				

Baba Sy - Pierre Dionis 2-0 26-10-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

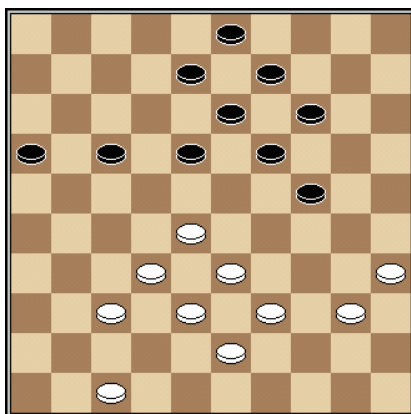
1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x32	3.37x28	19-24	4.41-37	14-19
5.46-41	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.37-32	12-18	8.41-37	7-12
9.40-34	19-23	10.28x19	14x23	11.44-40	10-14	12.50-44	5-10
13.34-29	23x34	14.40x29	1-7	15.35-30	14-19	16.30-24	19x30
17.29-23	18x29	18.33x35	12-18	19.39-33	7-12	20.44-39	10-14
21.45-40	18-23	22.40-34	15-20	23.33-28	13-19	24.38-33	20-24
25.42-38	12-18	26.47-42	9-13	27.31-27	17-22	28.28x17	11x31
29.36x27	4-9	30.49-44	6-11	31.33-29	24x33	32.39x28	8-12
33.34-30	14-20	34.44-39	11-17	35.39-33	20-24	36.30-25	17-21
37.37-31	12-17	38.31-26	17-22	39.28x17	21x12	40.43-39	2-8?



41.48-43	23-29	42.27-21	16x27	43.32x21	9-14	44.33-28	3-9
45.21-16	12-17	46.28-23	19x28	47.38-32	28x48	48.39-34	48x30
49.25x3	17-22	50.3-21					

Marcel Deslauriers - Baba Sy 1-1 27-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

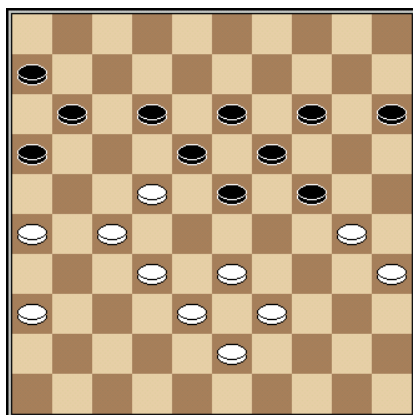
1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	14-19
5.33-28	17-22	6.28x17	11x22	7.31-27	22x31	8.36x27	5-10
9.39-33	10-14	10.33-28	6-11	11.44-39	11-17	12.39-33	1-6
13.46-41	7-11	14.41-36	17-22	15.28x17	11x31	16.36x27	23-29
17.34x23	19x39	18.43x34	6-11	19.50-44	11-17	20.44-39	14-19
21.39-33	9-14	22.33-28	4-9	23.49-43	2-7	24.38-33	20-24
25.43-39	18-22	26.27x18	12x23	27.42-38	7-12	28.48-43	12-18
29.34-29	23x34	30.40x20	15x24	31.45-40			



				18-23	32.37-31	14-20
33.40-34	20-25	34.34-30	25x34	35.39x30	13-18	36.31-27
37.43-39	9-13	38.30-25	3-9	39.25-20	24x15	40.39-34
41.33-29	18-22	42.29x20	22x42	43.47x38	15x24	44.38-33
45.34-29	17-22	46.29x20	22x31	47.32-27	31x22	48.20-15
49.15-10	27-31	50.10-5	31-36			

Baba Sy - Raymond Saint Fort 2-0 28-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	20-24	2.37-32	18-23	3.41-37	17-21	4.34-29	23x34
5.40x20	15x24	6.31-26	13-18	7.26x17	12x21	8.45-40	18-23
9.36-31	7-12	10.40-34	12-18	11.34-29	23x34	12.39x30	18-23
13.31-27	10-15	14.27-22	9-13	15.46-41	11-17	16.22x11	16x 7
17.37-31	7-12	18.44-39	1- 7	19.41-37	12-18	20.31-27	21-26
21.47-41	8-12	22.41-36	7-11	23.50-45	11-16	24.49-44	4- 9
25.44-40	14-20	26.30-25	2- 7	27.25x14	9x20	28.40-34	24-29
29.33x24	20x40	30.45x34	15-20	31.39-33	20-24	32.34-30	7-11
33.37-31	26x37	34.42x31	5-10	35.31-26	3- 9	36.43-39	9-14
37.48-43	10-15	38.28-22					

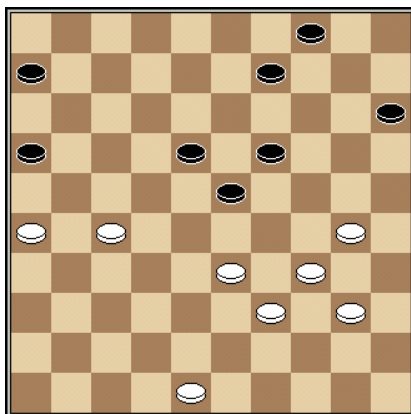


		15-20	39.32-28	23x21	40.26x 8	18x27
41. 8- 2	20-25	42.33-28	25x34	43.39x30	13-18	44.28-22
45.22x31	24-29	46. 2x33	11-17	47.33x11	6x17	48.30-24
49.31-27	28-33	50.38x29	17-21	51.27-22		

Baba Sy - Hugo Verpoest 2-0 29-10-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x32	3.37x28	12-18	4.41-37	7-12
5.37-32	20-25	6.42-37	19-23	7.28x19	14x34	8.39x30	25x34
9.40x29	1- 7	10.44-39	10-14	11.47-42	5-10	12.50-44	18-23
13.29x18	12x23	14.46-41	7-12	15.45-40	13-18	16.40-34	9-13
17.32-28	23x32	18.37x28	17-21	19.41-37	21-26	20.38-32	11-17
21.43-38	2- 7	22.34-29	17-22	23.28x17	12x21	24.32-28	18-22
25.28x17	21x12	26.31-27	12-18	27.44-40	14-19	28.40-34	10-14
29.49-44	8-12	30.44-40	3- 9	31.35-30	18-22	32.27x18	12x23
33.29x18	13x22	34.37-31	26x37	35.42x31	19-23	36.38-32	7-12
37.32-27	12-18	38.31-26	22x31	39.36x27	14-19		

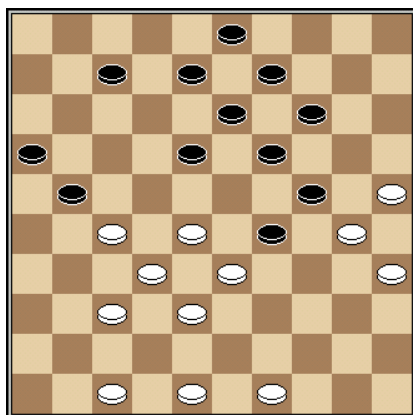


41.21-17	15-20	42.48-42	20-24	43.40-35	4- 9	40.26-21	9-13
45.33x22	18-23	46.30-25	9-14	47.34-30	24-29	44.42-38	23-28
						48.39-33	



Jan Bom - Baba Sy 1-1 31-10-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

1.33-29	19-24	2.39-33	14-19	3.32-28	17-22	4.28x17	11x22
5.34-30	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.30-25	19-23	8.44-39	6-11
9.50-44	11-17	10.37-32	23-29	11.33x24	22-28	12.32x23	18x20
13.41-37	12-18	14.37-32	20-24	15.46-41	7-12	16.41-37	14-20
17.25x14	10x19	18.32-28	5-10	19.39-33	10-14	20.44-39	1- 7
21.37-32	18-23	22.31-27	13-18	23.36-31	8-13	24.31-26	14-20
25.39-34	2- 8	26.43-39	9-14	27.34-30	4- 9	28.30-25	24-29
29.33x24	20x29	30.40-34	29x40	31.45x34	15-20	32.34-30	20-24
33.42-37	17-21	34.26x17	12x21	35.39-33	23-29		



Baba Sy had already prepared a counterattack in case of:

36.28-23 19x39 37.30x10 39-44

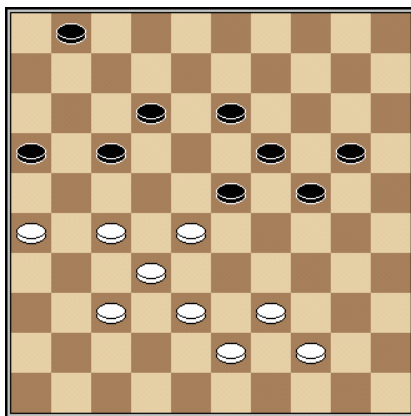
38.49x40 29-34 39.40x29 9-14

40.10x19 13x22

37.37-31	13-18	38.31-26	8-13	39.26x17	18-22	40.27x18	13x11
41.28-22	16-21	42.22-18	23x12	43.32-28	29-34	44.30x39	9-13
45.39-34	24-30	46.35x24	19x39	47.43x34	21-27	48.34-29	13-19
49.29-24	19x30	50.25x34	11-17	51.34-29	3- 8	52.48-42	17-22
53.28x17	12x21	54.33-28	21-26	55.42-37	8-13		

Baba Sy - Iser Koeperman 2-0 01-11-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-24	2.37-32	14-19	3.41-37	10-14	4.46-41	5-10
5.34-30	20-25	6.32-27	25x34	7.40x20	15x24	8.37-32	18-23
9.33-29	24x22	10.27x29	14-20	11.41-37	10-15	12.45-40	12-18
13.32-28	17-22	14.28x17	11x22	15.37-32	7-12	16.39-33	6-11
17.32-27	11-17	18.29-24	20x29	19.33x24	19x30	20.35x24	9-14
21.44-39	17-21	22.50-44	21x32	23.38x27	12-17	24.42-38	8-12
25.48-42	2- 7	26.38-33	13-19	27.24x13	18x 9	28.27x18	12x23
29.43-38	9-13	30.42-37	7-12	31.31-26	14-19	32.37-32	4- 9
33.49-43	9-14	34.36-31	15-20	35.31-27	20-24	36.47-42	3- 8
37.33-28	13-18	38.40-35	23-29	39.42-37	18-23	40.44-40	8-13
41.40-34	29x40	42.35x44	14-20				



45.27x16	23-29	46.43-38	19-23	43.44-40	13-18	44.38-33	16-21
49.24-19	45-50	50.19-14	50x31	47.28x30	20-25	48.33x24	25x45
53. 9- 3	29-34	54.32-27	12-18	51.26x37	18-23	52.14- 9	23-29
				55. 3x21	18-23	56.21-12	

The 1 November was a dark day for Kuperman as Baba Sy definitely won, taking revenge from his first game against this Russian player. This way Baba Sy now had the same amount of points as Kuperman, three points less than Shchegolev . Suddenly there was a great feeling in the championship, since no one expected this from the natural talent of Senegal - this simple man who in fact played better than the ex-champion of the world in 1956, Marcel Deslauriers.

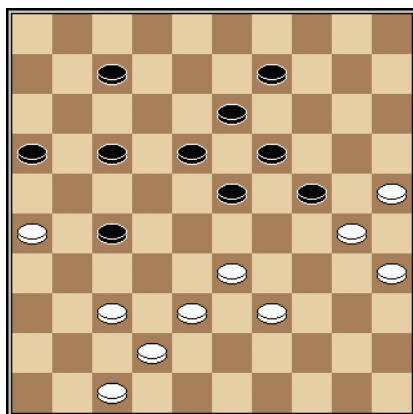
Conde A. de Descallar - Baba Sy

0-2

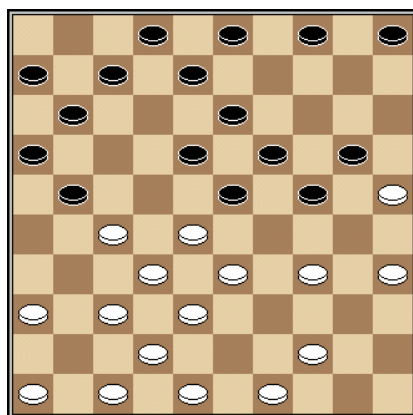
02-11-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.33-28	23x32	4.37x28	10-14
5.41-37	14-19	6.37-32	5-10	7.39-33	10-14	8.44-39	17-22
9.28x17	12x21	10.34-30	21-26	11.33-28	26x37	12.32x41	7-12
13.41-37	1-7	14.30-25	11-17	15.39-33	7-11	16.50-44	17-22
17.28x17	11x22	18.44-39	19-23	19.33-29	23x34	20.40x29	13-19
21.39-33	9-13	22.49-44	16-21	23.44-40	6-11	24.37-32	21-27
25.32x21	22-28	26.33x22	18x16	27.40-34	12-18	28.46-41	4-9
29.41-37	8-12	30.34-30	20-24	31.29x20	15x24	32.43-39	11-17
33.39-33	18-23	34.33-29	23x34	35.30x39	13-18	36.38-33	9-13
37.36-31	17-22	38.31-26	19-23	39.45-40	2-7	40.40-34	14-19
41.42-38	22-27	42.48-42	3-9	43.34-30	12-17		



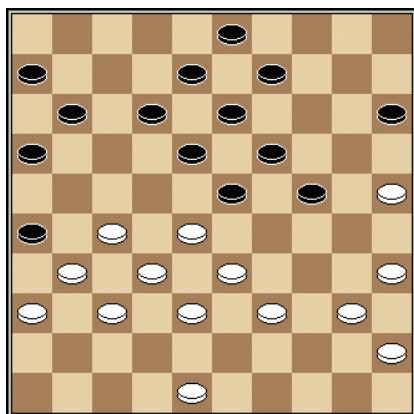
45.26x17	18-22	46.32x21	16x27	47.17x28	23x34	48.30x39	9-14
49.33-28	24-29	50.39-34	29x40	51.35x44	19-24	52.47-41	24-29
53.44-40	7-12	54.41-36	12-17	55.42-38	13-19		



Baba Sy - A. Agliardi 2-0 03-11-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	5-10
5.46-41	14-19	6.32-28	23x32	7.37x28	10-14	8.41-37	17-22
9.28x17	12x21	10.38-32	7-12	11.43-38	1-7	12.33-28	21-26
13.39-33	20-24	14.44-39	11-17	15.49-43	18-23	16.50-44	13-18
17.31-27	17-22	18.28x17	12x21	19.33-29	24x33	20.39x28	9-13
21.44-39	4-9	22.39-33	14-20	23.37-31	26x37	24.42x31	8-12
25.47-42	2-8	26.42-37	20-24	27.43-39	7-11	28.34-30	21-26
29.30-25							



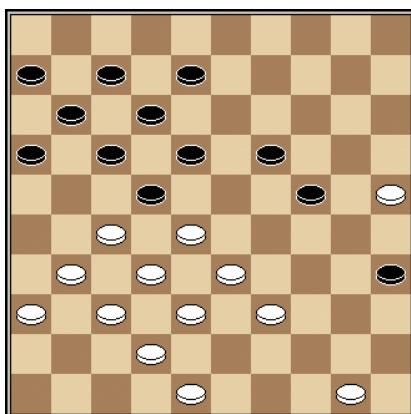
12-17	30.27-21	16x27	31.32x12	23x34	32.12x14	9x20
33.40x29	11-17	34.25x14				

Now we see that in the eighteenth round Shchegolev had 29 points and Kuperman and Baba Sy followed him with 28.

Baba Sy - L. Sen A Kauw 2-0 04-11-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.34-30	14-19
5.30-25	17-22	6.25x14	9x20	7.41-37	5-10	8.46-41	10-14
9.35-30	4- 9	10.30-25	11-17	11.40-34	23-28	12.32x23	18x40
13.45x34	12-18	14.37-32	7-12	15.41-37	1- 7	16.32-28	20-24
17.37-32	24-30	18.32-27	30-35	19.38-32	19-24	20.34-29	14-19
21.29x20	15x24	22.39-34	7-11	23.43-38	9-14	24.34-29	2- 7
25.29x 9	13x 4	26.44-39	4-10	27.39-34	10-15	28.42-37	3- 9
29.47-42	19-24	30.49-43	9-14	31.34-29	14-19	32.29x20	15x24
33.43-39							

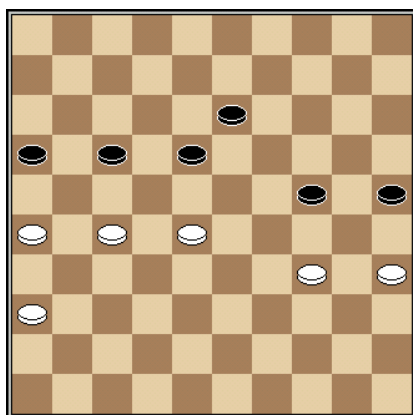


35-40 34.39-34 40x29 35.25-20

In the 19th round after the game against Sen A Kauw we see that Tsegolew, Kuperman and Baba Sy have 30 points each.

Verse, A. - Sy, B. 0-2 05-11-1960  
Wch

1.34-30	19-23	2.30-25	20-24	3.33-29	24x33	4.39x19	14x23
5.44-39	10-14	6.39-33	5-10	7.35-30	14-19	8.30-24	19x30
9.25x34	10-14	10.33-29	13-19	11.38-33	15-20	12.42-38	8-13
13.33-28	2- 8	14.38-33	17-22	15.28x17	11x22	16.32-28	23x32
17.37x17	12x21	18.50-44	19-24	19.43-38	7-12	20.31-26	14-19
21.26x17	12x21	22.41-37	1- 7	23.38-32	8-12	24.47-41	21-27
25.32x21	16x27	26.37-31	27-32	27.41-37	32x41	28.46x37	19-23
29.31-27	6-11	30.49-43	13-19	31.48-42	11-17	32.43-38	9-13
33.37-31	4-10	34.31-26	10-15	35.40-35	20-25	36.29x20	15x24
37.33-29	24x33	38.38x29	19-24	39.29x20	25x14	40.44-39	13-19
41.42-38	19-24	42.39-33	14-20	43.45-40	20-25	44.38-32	23-29
45.34x23	18x38	46.32x43	7-11	47.40-34	11-16	48.43-38	3- 8
49.38-32	12-18	50.32-28	8-13				



53.26-21	17x26	54.28-23	40-44	51.35-30	24x35	52.34-29	35-40
57. 7- 2	13-18	55.23x12	44-49	56.12- 7	49x21		

And this way we arrive at the twentieth round on 5 November. In Gieten. Baba Sy was very comfortable, as we see he was going to be on top of the table with 32 points once he won against Abe Verse, and that both Russians stayed behind him by a point, leaving them with 31 points.

It is only true to say that the world championship of 1960 was really an ambulant circus which was to show the world their players and their capacities. On Saturday 5 November of 1960, by initiative of the checkers club of Gieten and under the sponsorship of the Dutch federation, a round of this world championship was celebrated in the Braams Hotel in the town of Gieten. This was possible due to the organization and market of 2000 ballots and with the proceeds of this lottery it was possible to bring the world championship to Gieten. There is a photograph of the address of the checkers club of Gieten from this event, which clearly shows the good organization of the town.



**From left to right, standing: stranger, Jacob Speelman (treasurer), Wolter Nobbe, G. Bennink, Renko Venema. Sitting: Bertus Drenthe, Jan van Dijk, Tjark Brantsema (secretary)**

The world championship players were solemnly received by the reception committee where joy and feminine grace were present with their national costumes of Drente. In the following picture we see in the second row standing Marcel Deslauriers and other players being hugged by the ladies of Gieten.





**From left to right, sitting: Aad Ivens, H.A.A. of Kruyff (referee), Barend Dukel, Shchegolev , Raymond Saint-Fort, Ante Agliardi. Second row, standing: Marcel Deslauriers, Pierre Dionis, Jan Bom, Iser Kuperman, Baba Sy, J.H. Willems. Last row: the count Ayméri of Descallar, stranger, Louis Sen A Kauw, Hugo Verpoest, Abel Verse, Freek Gordijn**

We see in the forthcoming photo Baba Sy with his inseparable *Gaulloise* cigarette drinking coffee offered by one of the ladies of Gieten. It was a special day for Baba as he won against his rival Abel Verse while his other rivals Shchegolev and Kuperman played against each other and with the result of the match between the two Russians Baba Sy passed to first place while missing six rounds. Therefore there was a lot of emotion during this world championship, something never seen before.



**Baba Sy in Gieten on 7 November 1960**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-7459**  
**Photographer: A. Folkers**

The next two photographs were given to me by Fred Ivens, the son of Aad Ivens, the secretary of the Dutch federation of the game of checkers (KNDB) during 1957-1971. I personally knew Aad Ivens in 1963 and was impressed by his magnetic personality and restless activity.



**Sr. Piet Vink, secretary of the sport, imposes the royal insignia  
“Knight of the order of Oranje Nassau” to Aad Ivens  
The Russian player Andris Andreiko watches the event**

He was president of the checkers club RDG in La Haya for many years and thanks to him the game of checkers in Holland received a new drive. We have already seen that in 1959 he accompanied Geert van Dijk to Russia during his match with Iser Kuperman. He was also the treasurer of the world federation of the game of checkers for many years and did many travels abroad to promote the game of checkers between Haiti, Canada, Brazil, Senegal, Surinam, and others. In the last stage of his life he was an associate of RDG, the KNDB, and FMJD.



### **Aad Ivens teaching the ladies to play**

All of the great players of the game of checkers had passed through his house. His son Fred recalled that in 1960 Kuperman and Koslov had played checkers in his house, the count of Descallar played the piano,

Agliardo of Monaco taught his magic tricks, and Deslauriers played a game of chess with Baba Sy. For all of his activities he was deservedly honored in 1986 with the royal insignia of “knight of the order of Oranje Nassau”.

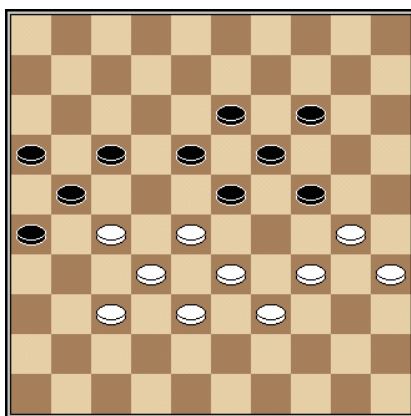
In the last photo we see Aad Ivens in Gieten trying to win over new members for his checkers federation. He teaches the friendly ladies of Gieten in their national costumes from Drente how to make the movements of the pawns on the checkerboard. J.H. Willems is also thoughtfully watching the plays of both ladies.

The ambulant circus (a name given to the players of the world championship for playing in many cities in Holland) was received at noon by the mayor of the city of Leeuwarden on 11 November. Logically the three candidates for the title had all the journalists' attention. Shchegolev was very shy in comparison to Baba Sy who always showed how comfortable he was by smiling. On the other hand Kuperman at first didn't want to appear in front of the cameras with his two adversaries. Surely he felt uncomfortably and with two points less than his adversaries he didn't feel safe to get the title.

Baba Sy - Freek Gordijn 2-0 07-11-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x34	3.40x29	12-18	4.37-32	7-12
5.41-37	19-23	6.28x19	14x34	7.39x30	20-25	8.44-40	25x34
9.40x29	10-14	10.35-30	14-19	11.30-24	19x30	12.29-23	18x29
13.33x35	5-10	14.50-44	10-14	15.44-39	12-18	16.46-41	1- 7
17.45-40	7-12	18.40-34	18-23	19.38-33	12-18	20.42-38	14-19
21.47-42	9-14	22.32-28	23x32	23.37x28	17-21	24.41-37	18-23
25.37-32	14-20	26.31-27	4- 9	27.27-22	11-17	28.22x11	6x17
29.36-31	8-12	30.31-27	12-18	31.34-30	20-24	32.39-34	15-20
33.30-25	2- 8	34.25x14	9x20	35.43-39	20-25	36.48-43	8-12
37.34-30	25x34	38.39x30	21-26	39.43-39	3- 9	40.39-34	17-21
41.42-37	9-14	42.49-44	12-17	43.44-39			



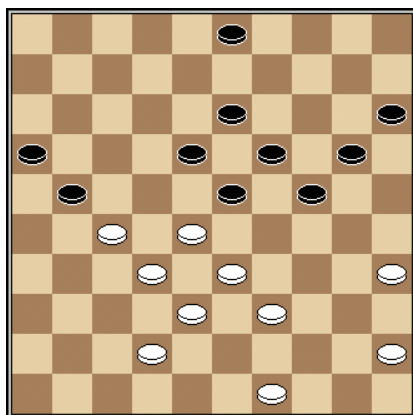
45.33-28	12-17	46.38-33	17-21	47.30-25	24-29	48.33x24	19x30
49.28x10	18-23	50.35x24	23-28	51.32x23	21x41	52.10- 5	41-47
53.23-19	47x15	54.19x 8	15- 4	55. 8- 2	26-31	56. 2-35	

In the twenty-first round we see Baba Sy with 34 points, Shchegolev with 33 points, and Kuperman with 32 points. Baba Sy didn't stop winning and in the twenty-second round we see him beating Dukel, thus obtaining 36 points. Shchegolev also won against Agliardi and came with 35 points in the second place. Finally Kuperman could not take more than a draw against the Canadian Deslauriers and scored 33 points. At this moment there were a few rounds left to finish the tournament, but the match between Baba Sy against Shchegolev remained.

Barend Dukel - Baba Sy 0-2 08-11-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.33-28	23x32	4.37x28	10-14
5.41-37	14-19	6.39-33	5-10	7.44-39	10-14	8.37-32	17-22
9.28x17	12x21	10.46-41	21-26	11.41-37	16-21	12.33-28	21-27
13.31x22	18x27	14.32x21	26x17	15.39-33	7-12	16.38-32	12-18
17.43-38	20-24	18.37-31	1- 7	19.31-27	17-22	20.28x17	11x31
21.36x27	8-12	22.33-28	6-11	23.34-30	24-29	24.42-37	18-23
25.48-42	11-17	26.40-34	29x40	27.35x44	15-20	28.44-39	7-11
29.45-40	4-10	30.30-25	10-15	31.50-45	20-24	32.40-35	11-16
33.37-31	14-20	34.25x14	9x20	35.31-26	13-18	36.38-33	2- 8
37.42-38	17-21	38.26x17	12x21	39.47-42	8-13		

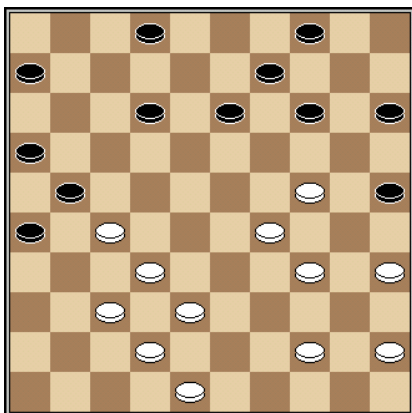


41.33-28	21-26	42.42-37	24-29	43.39-34	29x40	40.28-22	3- 9
45.27x16	18x27	46.32x21	23x41	47.21-17	41-47	44.45x34	16-21
49.32-27	41-36	50.27-21	36-18	48.38-32	47-41		

We now see that in the twenty-third round which was celebrated in Hoogezaand-Sappemeer on 9 November Tsjsoglew stomped Baba Sy, a thing that only a few people expected and this way the Russian got ahead of his adversary by one point classifying for the first place with 37 points. Kuperman knew how to win against Saint-Ford after a destructive combination and obtained 35 points.

Baba Sy - W. Sjtsjogoljew 0-2 09-11-1960  
Campeonato del Mundo

1.32-28	17-21	2.37-32	11-17	3.41-37	7-11	4.34-29	18-22
5.40-34	13-18	6.31-27	22x31	7.36x27	9-13	8.27-22	18x27
9.28-23	19x28	10.33x31	13-18	11.46-41	21-26	12.41-36	1-7
13.45-40	20-25	14.39-33	18-22	15.44-39	17-21	16.50-45	14-20
17.29-24	20x29	18.33x24	3-9	19.38-33	12-18	20.42-38	10-14
21.47-42	5-10	22.34-30	25x34	23.40x29	14-20	24.49-44	20-25
25.33-28	22x33	26.39x28	18-22	27.28x17	11x22	28.43-39	10-14
29.39-34	8-13	30.31-27	22x31	31.36x27	7-12		



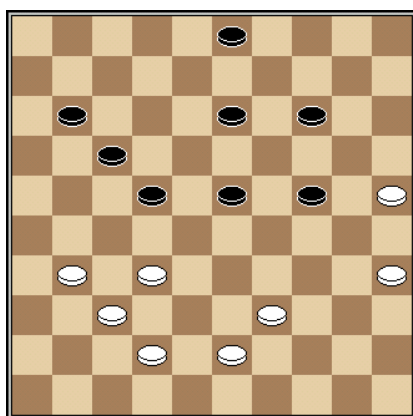
33.24-20	15x24	34.29x20	14-19	35.20-15	19-23	32.38-33	12-18
37.28x8	30x50	38.37-31	26x28	39.8-3	21x32	36.33-28	25-30
41.48-43	33-38	42.42x33	50x28	43.43-38	32x43	40.3x25	28-33
45.35-30	18-22	46.30-24	22-27	47.45-40	27-32	44.25x48	28-14
						48.40-34	32-38



Pierre Dionis - Baba Sy 0-2 10-11-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

1.34-30	19-23	2.30-25	20-24	3.33-29	24x33	4.39x19	14x23
5.44-39	10-14	6.32-28	23x32	7.37x28	16-21	8.50-44	5-10
9.41-37	21-26	10.37-32	26x37	11.32x41	14-19	12.41-37	10-14
13.35-30	15-20	14.39-33	17-22	15.28x17	11x22	16.30-24	20x29
17.33x24	19x30	18.25x34	14-19	19.44-39	6-11	20.37-32	9-14
21.46-41	18-23	22.32-27	22x31	23.36x27	12-18	24.41-37	7-12
25.34-30	11-17	26.39-33	17-22	27.37-31	12-17	28.31-26	22x31
29.26x37	8-12	30.43-39	17-22	31.40-35	1- 7	32.45-40	7-11
33.40-34	14-20	34.30-25	20-24	35.48-43	22-28	36.33x22	18x27
37.34-30	13-18	38.39-33	2- 8	39.33-29	23x34	40.30x39	8-13
41.38-32	27x38	42.43x32	4- 9	43.47-41	12-17	44.49-43	9-14
45.37-31	19-23	46.41-37	18-22				



49.25x14	3- 9	50.14x 3	11-16	47.31-27	22x31	48.37x26	14-20
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In the twenty-fourth round Verse could not find the moves against Shchegolev , so the Russian kept on leading the tables with 39 points. Baba Sy won against Dionis and followed him with 38 points, while Kuperman won against Hugo Verpoest, obtaining 37 points.

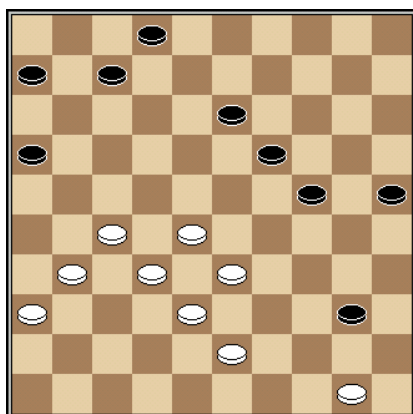
Finally in Leeuwarden in a round before the final it could clearly be seen that Shchegolev was going to be the new world champion. He won against Freek Gordijn and positioned himself with 41 points in the first place. Meanwhile Baba Sy could not win against Deslauriers and with his draw he reached 39 points, the same as Kuperman who won against Bom. It is not known if the result of the game of Baba Sy was influenced by him getting lost in Leeuwarden during a walk. But whatever it was, being famous has its perks. Baba Sy had to play the last round in the Schaaf rooms of the city of Leeuwarden in the Friesian province, and had gotten completely lost in the city. Then he intelligently addressed two elderly people, showed them a picture of himself in the newspaper, and hoped that they could help him find his way back to the Schaaf rooms. A helpful citizen understood Baba Sy's question and took him to the play rooms, where he logically arrived feeling nervous.

He happily entered the room only a few minutes late. Whatever it was, Baba Sy played the semifinal round against Deslauriers and he seemed nervous and tense. His task from that day was to beat the Canadian, but it was impossible. So Baba Sy ended with 39 points in the game boards. Kuperman won against Bom this way making sure that he had 39 points too and Shchegolev won against Gordijn, gaining the first place with 41 points.

Baba Sy - Marcel Deslauriers 1-1 11-11-1960

Campeonato del Mundo

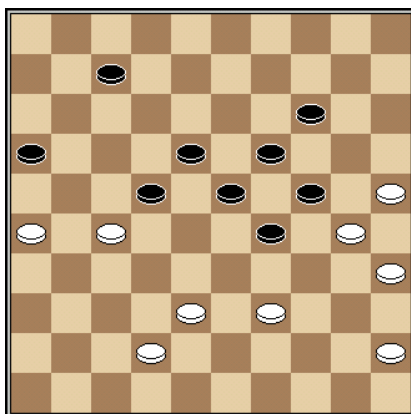
1.32-28	20-24	2.37-32	14-20	3.41-37	10-14	4.34-30	20-25
5.46-41	25x34	6.40x20	15x24	7.45-40	18-23	8.40-34	12-18
9.44-40	7-12	10.50-45	4-10	11.34-29	23x34	12.40x20	14x25
13.45-40	1- 7	14.40-34	9-14	15.31-27	17-22	16.28x17	11x31
17.36x27	14-20	18.32-28	10-15	19.37-32	19-24	20.34-29	13-19
21.41-37	18-23	22.29x18	12x23	23.47-41	8-13	24.41-36	5-10
25.37-31	3- 8	26.42-37	24-30	27.35x24	19x30	28.28x19	13x24
29.49-44	30-35	30.39-34	24-30	31.34-29	10-14	32.43-39	14-19
33.48-43	20-24	34.29x20	15x24	35.44-40	35x44	36.39x50	8-13
37.32-28	30-34	38.37-32	34-40				



41.27x 9	19-24	42. 9- 3	24-29	39.33-29	24x42	40.43-38	42x22
45.26-42	34-39	46.42-48	2- 8	43. 3-26	40-45	44.31-27	29-34
				47.48x11	6x17		

The Russian companions of Shchegolev and Kuperman congratulated them immediately with great satisfaction and to Deslauriers with his results against Baba Sy. Now with this result Shchegolev had the title in his hands. Whatever it was, everyone agreed that the title had been taken away from Baba Sy's grasp due to his quick plays.

Ramond Saint Fort		- Baba Sy		0-2	12-11-1960		
Campeonato del Mundo							
1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.31-27	10-14	4.37-32	14-19
5.41-37	5-10	6.33-28	10-14	7.39-33	17-22	8.28x17	11x31
9.36x27	6-11	10.33-28	11-17	11.44-39	7-11	12.46-41	1- 6
13.41-36	20-24	14.34-30	14-20	15.39-33	24-29	16.33x24	20x29
17.30-25	9-14	18.50-44	15-20	19.35-30	20-24	20.40-35	17-22
21.28x17	11x31	22.36x27	6-11	23.44-39	11-17	24.37-31	17-21
25.39-33	21-26	26.33-28	26x37	27.42x31	12-17	28.31-26	4- 9
29.27-22	18x27	30.32x12	8x17	31.48-42	23x32	32.38x27	3- 8
33.43-38	8-12	34.42-37	13-18	35.37-32	2- 7	36.49-43	18-22
37.27x18	12x23	38.43-39	9-13	39.32-27	13-18	40.47-42	17-22



41.45-40	22x31	42.26x37	7-12	43.37-31	12-17	44.38-32	18-22
45.39-34	22-28	46.25-20	28x48	47.20x 9	48x26	48. 9- 4	29-33
49. 4-10	33-38	50.30-25	38-42	51.34-30	42-47	52.40-34	47-29

The last round was played at the Concertgebouw in Haarlem. On November 12 in the last round Shchegolev did what everyone expected of him and with his draw against Dukel he finished in the first place, winning the world championship with 42 points. Kuperman drew against Sen A Kaw. Baba Sy, wishing with all fury a second place, won against Ramond Saint-Fort and ranked second with 41 points, while Kuperman ranked third with 40 points. Shchegolev sportingly let him participate in his coronation since there was a titanic struggle between Baba Sy and him for the championship.



**Barend Dukel congratulating Shchegolev on his title. Baba Sy at the back**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-7647**  
**Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Barend Dukel congratulating Shchegolev on his title. Baba Sy at the back**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-7648**  
**Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Viacheslav Shchegolev on 12 November 1960 in the Concertgebouw  
in the city of Haarlem**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,  
911-7643 Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Viacheslav Shchegolev on 12 November 1960 in the Concertgebouw  
in the city of Haarlem**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,  
911-7644 Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Viacheslav Shchegolev on 12 November 1960 in the Concertgebouw  
in the city of Haarlem**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,  
911-7649 Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Viacheslav Shchegolev on 12 November 1960 in the Concertgebouw  
in the city of Haarlem**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank,  
911-7650 Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Viacheslav Shchegolev , Baba Sy, and Iser Kuperman, 12 November 1960  
in the Concertgebouw, Haarlem  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-7646  
Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Viacheslav Shchegolev , Baba Sy, and Iser Kuperman, 12 November 1960  
in the Concertgebouw, Haarlem  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-7645  
Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**





**Viacheslav Shchegolev , Baba Sy, and Iser Kuperman, 12 November 1960  
in the Concertgebouw, Haarlem  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 911-7651  
Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**

# CHAPTER 9

## 1960 Baba Sy won Huissen's tournament

Going back to Baba Sy, immediately after the world championship of the game of checkers an international tournament of the game of checkers was organized in Huissen from 16 to 19 November 1960. The participants played 2 matches per day, and after 4 rounds we see Baba Sy and Saint-Fort leading the championship with six points. Wim of Jong after four rounds had only three points due to losing against Van Aalten, but he would quickly recover from his unfortunate loss. In the semifinal round Baba Sy, who had won against Saint-Fort, had an advantage of 2 points over his adversaries Henk Laros and Wim of Jong. In the final round Laros lost against Saint-Fort and Baba Sy drew with Wim of Jong, this way classifying himself as first in the tournament.

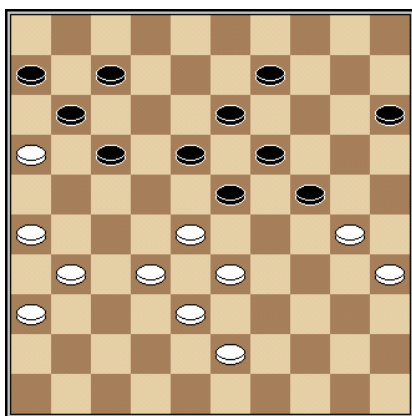
### International Tournament of the Game of Checkers in Huissen, 1960

Nº	Jugadores	S	J	S	E	L	A	V	S	Total
01	Baba Sy	X	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10
02	Wim de Jong	1	X	2	1	1	0	2	1	8
03	R. Saint-Fort	0	0	X	1	2	1	2	2	8
04	A. van Aalten	1	2	1	1	0	X	0	2	7
05	J. Edink	0	1	1	X	1	1	2	1	7
06	Henk Laros	0	1	0	1	X	2	1	2	7
07	M. Verleene	1	0	0	0	1	2	X	1	5
08	M. Storm	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	X	4

Baba Sy - Henk Laros 2-0 16-11-1960

Huissen

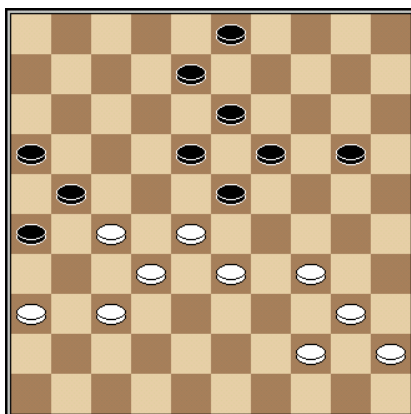
1.32-28	20-24	2.37-32	14-20	3.41-37	18-23	4.34-29	23x34
5.40x29	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.46-41	12-18	8.45-40	7-12
9.40-34	15-20	10.44-40	18-23	11.31-27	17-21	12.36-31	21-26
13.41-36	20-24	14.49-44	12-18	15.27-22	18x27	16.31x22	11-17
17.22x11	16x 7	18.50-45	10-15	19.36-31	13-18	20.31-27	8-13
21.47-41	7-12	22.41-36	1- 7	23.34-29	23x34	24.40x20	15x24
25.37-31	26x37	26.32x41	18-23	27.38-32	13-18	28.41-37	9-13
29.42-38	5-10	30.45-40	7-11	31.37-31	14-20	32.40-34	10-15
33.34-30	20-25	34.48-42	25x34	35.39x30	4- 9	36.44-39	9-14
37.31-26	2- 7	38.42-37	14-20	39.27-21	20-25	40.21-16	25x34
41.39x30	12-17	42.37-31	3- 9				



45.26x37	9-14	46.43-39	15-20	43.30-25	18-22	44.31-27	22x31
49.22x13	19x 8	50.38-33	14-19	47.28-22	17x28	48.33x22	13-18
53.28-22	10-14	54.36-31	14-20	51.25x14	19x10	52.33-28	23-29
57.35x44	20-25	58.32-28	25-30	55.31-27	8-12	56.39-34	29x40
61.44x33	24-30	62.22-18	30-35	59.28-23	30-34	60.37-31	34-39
65. 9- 4	12-17	63.18-13	35-40	64.13- 9	40-44		
		66.33-28					

M. Storm - Baba Sy 1-1 16-11-1960  
 Huissen

1.33-28	20-24	2.34-30	15-20	3.30-25	10-15	4.39-33	18-23
5.44-39	4-10	6.31-27	17-21	7.37-31	21-26	8.49-44	26x37
9.42x31	11-17	10.47-42	12-18	11.27-22	18x27	12.31x11	6x17
13.41-37	8-12	14.46-41	12-18	15.36-31	7-12	16.31-27	2- 8
17.39-34	24-30	18.35x24	19x39	19.43x34	17-21	20.28x19	14x23
21.25x14	10x19	22.33-28	15-20	23.38-33	5-10	24.42-38	1- 7
25.48-43	10-15	26.44-39	7-11	27.50-44	21-26	28.33-29	20-24
29.29x20	15x24	30.38-33	11-17	31.41-36	17-22	32.28x17	12x21
33.33-29	24x33	34.39x28	9-14	35.43-38	14-20	36.38-33	



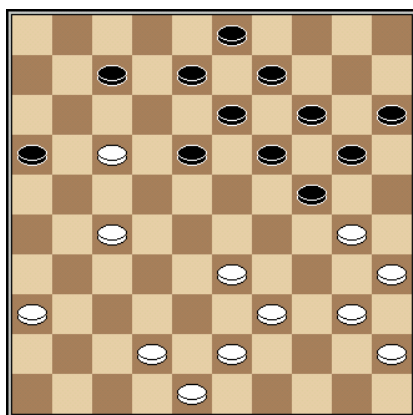
37.27-22	18x29	38.44-39	23x41	39.34x12	41-46	40.12- 7	21-27
41. 7- 2	46-19	42.39-33	20-25	43.33-28	19x46	44. 2x24	46-28
45.40-34	28-10	46.24-15	10- 5	47.15-47	27-32	48.47-24	16-21
49.24-47	21-27	50.47-29	5-10	51.29-24	10-28	52.24-29	28-11
53.29-15	32-37	54.15-10	27-32	55.10- 5	11-22	56.34-29	22-18
57.45-40	18x45	58.36-31					

3- 9

A. van Aalten - Baba Sy 1-1 17-11-1960

Huissen

1.32-28	20-24	2.34-30	14-20	3.31-27	20-25	4.27-22	18x27
5.37-31	25x34	6.40x20	15x24	7.31x22	16-21	8.39-34	11-16
9.22x11	6x17	10.44-39	12-18	11.41-37	7-12	12.45-40	10-14
13.50-45	5-10	14.46-41	21-26	15.37-32	17-21	16.41-37	21-27
17.32x21	26x17	18.38-32	10-15	19.43-38	18-23	20.49-43	13-18
21.37-31	8-13	22.31-27	2-8	23.47-41	14-20	24.41-37	17-21
25.37-31	4-10	26.27-22	18x27	27.31x22	21-26	28.36-31	26x37
29.32x41	23x32	30.38x27	10-14	31.34-30	1-7	32.41-36	12-18
33.22-17							



8-12	34.17x 8	3x12	35.43-38	20-25	36.48-43	25x34
37.40x20	15x24	38.36-31	18-22	39.27x18	13x22	40.38-32
41.35-30	24x35	42.32-28	22-27	43.31x22	7-11	44.42-37
45.22x11	16x 7	46.43-38	14-20	47.37-31	20-25	48.28-23
49.33x22	13-19	50.31-26	12-17	51.22x 2	19-24	52. 2x30
						25x32

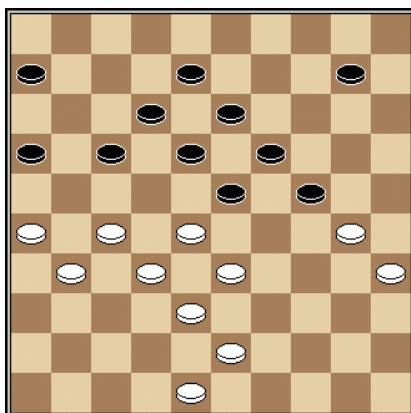
Baba Sy  
Huissen

- J. Edink

2-0

17-11-1960

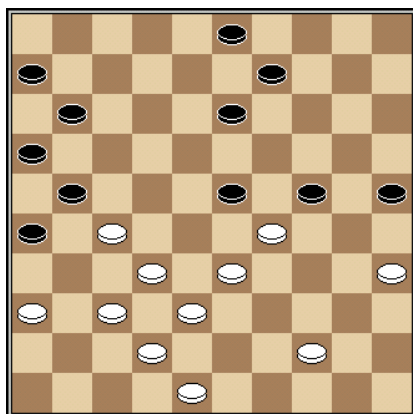
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5.37-32	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.46-41	12-18	8.41-37	7-12
9.40-34	19-24	10.45-40	14-19	11.34-30	18-23	12.30-25	10-14
13.40-34	12-18	14.44-40	2- 7	15.50-45	7-12	16.49-44	14-20
17.25x14	9x20	18.34-29	23x34	19.40x29	20-25	20.29x20	25x14
21.35-30	4- 9	22.45-40	5-10	23.40-35	19-24	24.30x19	13x24
25.31-27	17-22	26.28x17	11x31	27.36x27	1- 7	28.47-41	9-13
29.32-28	14-19	30.44-40	18-23	31.37-32	15-20	32.40-34	20-25
33.34-30	25x34	34.39x30	12-18	35.42-37	7-12	36.37-31	12-17
37.31-26	8-12	38.41-37	3- 8	39.37-31			



				23-29	40.48-42	10-14
41.42-37	17-21	42.26x17	12x21	43.30-25	29-34	44.31-26
45.35x24	19x30	46.26x17	14-19	47.33-29	34x23	48.25x34

Baba Sy - M. Verleene 1-1 18-11-1960  
Huissen

1.32-28 18-23	2.34-29 23x32	3.37x28 19-24	4.41-37 14-19
5.37-32 17-22	6.28x17 12x21	7.46-41 7-12	8.41-37 1- 7
9.40-34 21-26	10.44-40 20-25	11.29x20 25x14	12.50-44 19-23
13.34-29 23x34	14.40x29 14-19	15.32-28 19-23	16.28x19 13x24
17.29x20 15x24	18.45-40 10-14	19.40-34 5-10	20.33-28 11-17
21.39-33 8-13	22.44-39 2- 8	23.38-32 7-11	24.42-38 10-15
25.31-27 17-21	26.47-42 14-19	27.27-22 12-18	28.34-30 18x27
29.28-23 19x28	30.33x31 15-20	31.30x19 13x24	32.39-34 9-13
33.38-33 8-12	34.43-38 12-18	35.31-27 4- 9	36.49-44 20-25
37.34-29 18-23			



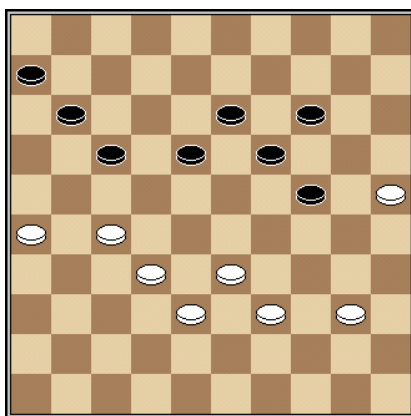
41.42-37 31x42	38.29x18 13x31	39.36x27 26-31	40.37x17 11x31
45.34-29 6-11	42.38x47 16-21	43.44-39 9-13	44.39-34 13-18
49.35-30 9-13	46.29x20 25x14	47.32-28 11-17	48.33-29 3- 9
53.30-25 21-27	50.48-42 18-22	51.28-23 13-19	52.29-24 19x28
	54.24-20 27-32	55.20x 9	

Raymond Saint Fort  
Huissen

- Baba Sy

0-2 18-11-1960

1.32-28	20-24	2.37-32	14-20	3.41-37	10-14	4.34-30	18-23
5.30-25	17-21	6.40-34	24-29	7.33x24	20x40	8.45x34	12-18
9.31-27	15-20	10.34-30	20-24	11.39-33	7-12	12.44-39	5-10
13.49-44	10-15	14.44-40	1- 7	15.40-34	24-29	16.33x24	14-20
17.25x14	9x40	18.35x44	15-20	19.50-45	21-26	20.39-33	11-17
21.30-25	20-24	22.43-39	7-11	23.44-40	17-21	24.37-31	26x37
25.42x31	21-26	26.47-42	26x37	27.42x31	12-17	28.31-26	8-12
29.39-34	2- 8	30.34-29	23x34	31.40x20	19-23	32.28x19	13x15
33.46-41	3- 9	34.27-21	16x27	35.32x21	9-14	36.41-37	14-19
37.48-43	4- 9	38.43-39	8-13	39.45-40	9-14	40.21-16	15-20
41.16x 7	12x 1	42.37-32	20-24	43.36-31	1- 7	44.31-27	7-11

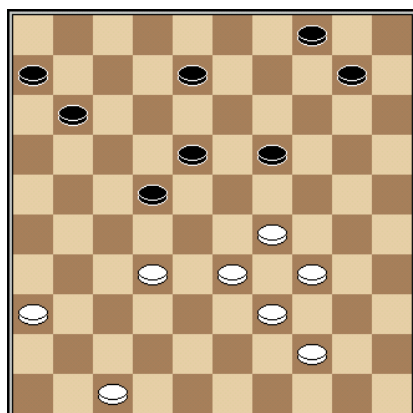


45.40-34	18-23	46.33-28	11-16	47.39-33	6-11	48.34-29	23x34
49.27-21	16x27	50.32x12	34-40	51.26-21	40-44	52.21-17	11x22
53.28x17	44-49	54.33-29	24x42	55.12- 7	49-44	56.17-12	13-18
57.12x23	19x28	58. 7- 2	42-47	59. 2-35			



Baba Sy - Wim de Jong 1-1 19-11-1960  
 Huissen

1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x34	3.40x29	20-25	4.37-32	12-18
5.41-37	7-12	6.44-40	1- 7	7.50-44	19-23	8.28x19	14x34
9.39x30	25x34	10.40x29	13-19	11.44-39	9-13	12.46-41	10-14
13.45-40	5-10	14.40-34	15-20	15.32-28	3- 9	16.37-32	19-23
17.28x19	13x24	18.41-37	9-13	19.34-30	17-21	20.30x19	14x34
21.39x30	20-25	22.49-44	25x34	23.44-39	34-40	24.35x44	21-27
25.32x21	16x27	26.31x22	18x27	27.39-34	12-17	28.43-39	7-12
29.37-31	12-18	30.31x22	18x27	31.33-29	17-22	32.42-37	13-19
33.48-42	8-12	34.38-32	27x38	35.42x33	12-18	36.37-32	2- 8



37.36-31	8-13	38.29-24	19x30	39.34x25	10-14	40.47-41	11-17
41.41-36	6-11	42.31-26	11-16	43.33-29	16-21	44.36-31	13-19
45.29-24	19x30	46.25x34	18-23	47.31-27	22x31	48.26x37	17-22
49.39-33							

# CHAPTER 10

## 1960 Baba Sy playing simultaneous matches

Baba Sy showed his humanity by playing simultaneous matches for the Haitian Saint Fort on Monday 28 November 1960 at 8 o'clock at night in the upper rooms of the café-restaurant De Harmonie in the city of Leiden, playing against about 50 players. This way Saint-Fort, thanks to the arbitration of Leo Springer, son of the ex-champion of the world Benedicto Springer, was admitted to the academic hospital of Leiden to study his deafness. Since the age of twelve Saint-Fort suffered from deafness, accompanied by partial silence.

During those years Baba Sy spoke very good French, a little English, and - logically - Senegalese. But one way or the other he had not fully understood what his companions had told him on the trip from Alblasserdam to Leiden. During the trip they had informed him with all reliability that he could have won the world championship if he didn't play in so much hurry. Baba promised his companions that he would stop playing so quickly, but logically his companions were referring to the 4-5 hour matches and not the simultaneous ones. Whatever it may have been, this time in Leiden Baba Sy didn't play as quickly as he used to and thought a little more. Of the 46 matches he won 43 and drew in 3, with the players Joh. Kromhout Albert Huisman, and Jan Slingerland.

After the victory in the International Tournament of Huissen Baba Sy played in November many simultaneous matches to pay for the admittance of his friend Saint-Fort in the academic hospital of Leiden. He played mainly in the city of Hengelo against many checkists. The result was 74 matches won and 3 draws. In the city of Meppel he won 43 matches, drew in 10, and lost 1. Thereafter he played in the city of

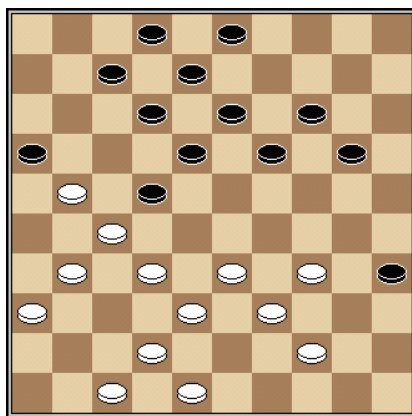
Leeuwarden where he won 34 matches, drew 13, and lost 1. Baba Sy's score was 84 percent. Very high caliber players, like D. of Jong, P. Bergsma, M. Banddstra, W. Heeringa, O. Hoekstra, and A.F. Schotanus could not win against him, Baba Sy showed his natural talent once again in Leeuwarden,. The collected money served to help the Haitian Raymond Saint-Fort. Unfortunately the doctors in Leiden could not perform surgery on Saint-Fort as everyone wanted. However, it was possible to get him a hearing device, through which Saint-Fort could amplify the sound volume by at least twenty percent and now he was in a position to listen to radio broadcasts.

From this time we still have a match from one of those simultaneous ones by Baba Sy, who has left us as heritage Douwe of Jong, a player who participated many times in the Senior Tournament of Holland. He quickly won a pawn, but mysteriously could not win against Baba Sy.

Douwe de Jong - Baba Sy 1-1 25-11-1960

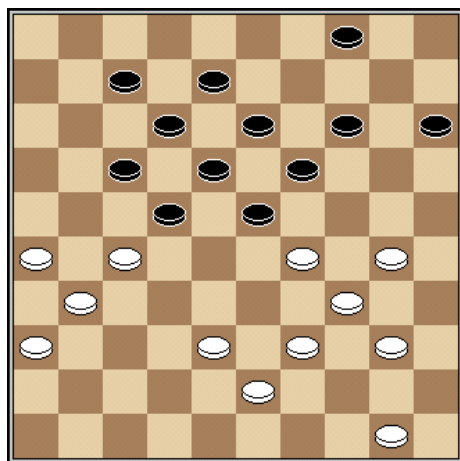
Leeuwarden simultânea

1.33-28	18-23	2.35-30	20-25	3.39-33	12-18	4.40-35	7-12
5.34-29	25x34	6.29x40	1- 7	7.44-39	15-20	8.40-34	10-15
9.45-40	5-10	10.31-27	17-22	11.28x17	11x31	12.36x27	19-24
13.50-45	14-19	14.41-36	10-14	15.46-41	6-11	16.36-31	11-17
17.41-36	24-29	18.33x24	20x29	19.35-30	15-20	20.30-25	4-10
21.31-26	10-15	22.37-31	17-22	23.34-30	29-34	24.40x29	23x34
25.39-33	34-40	26.45x34	20-24	27.34-29	24x35	28.29-24	19x30
29.25x34	14-19	30.49-44	9-14	31.43-39	15-20	32.26-21	



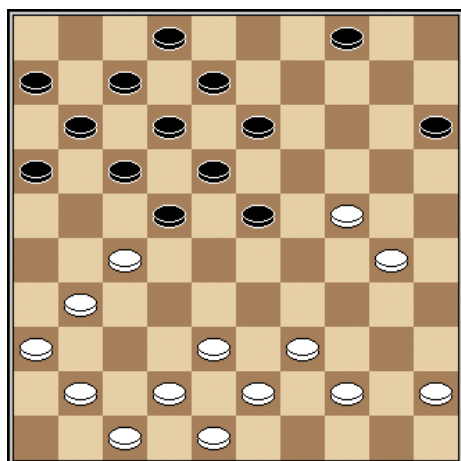
33.33x22	7-11	34.31-26	11-17	35.22x11	16x 7	36.38-33	7-11
37.32-28	20-24	38.21-16	14-20	39.16x 7	12x 1	40.48-43	8-12
41.27-22	18x27	42.28-23	19x28	43.33x31	13-19	44.42-38	3- 8
45.26-21	2- 7	46.38-33	8-13	47.33-28	12-18	48.47-42	7-12
49.31-27	1- 7	50.36-31	7-11	51.21-16	11-17	52.31-26	20-25
53.26-21	17x26	54.16-11	12-17	55.11x22	18-23	56.27-21	23x32
57.22-18	13x22	58.42-38	26x17	59.38x18	24-30	60.43-38	17-21
61.18-12	19-24	62.12- 7	24-29	63.34x23	30-34	64.39x30	25x34
65. 7- 2	21-26	66. 2-16	34-40				

Pieter Bergsma drew with white against Baba Sy, but we'll see that he was lost. A great master can also make a mistake from time to time.



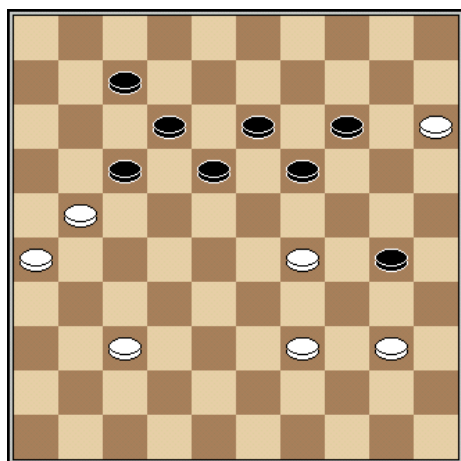
1.38-32	23-28	2.32x23	19x28
3.40-35	14-20	4.27-21	7-11
5.31-27	22x31	6.36x27	20-24
7.29x20	15x24	8.30x19	13x24
9.21-16	8-13	10.16x 7	12x 1
11.34-30	13-19	12.50-45	18-22
13.27x18	28-32	14.26-21	17x26
15.18-12			

On 7 December 1960 we see Baba Sy acting in Het Posthuis in the city of Heerenveen of the Friesian Province. After 4 hours of playing Baba Sy won 45 matches, drew 12, and lost 2 - one against K.J. of Vries of Sneek and the other against Pieter Bergsma. The match against Bergsma was as follows:



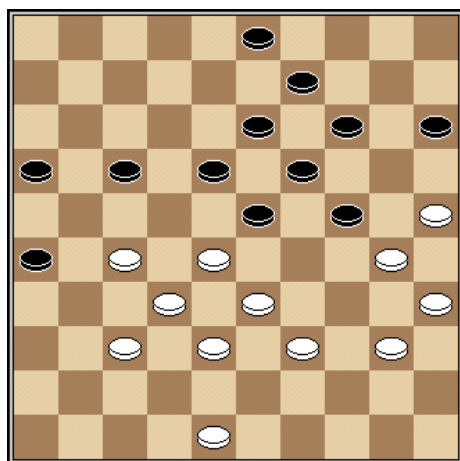
1...	23-28	2.38-33	13-19
3.24x13	18x 9	4.27x18	12x23
5.33x22	17x28	6.31-27	9-14
7.42-38	7-12	8.41-37	15-20
9.37-31	28-32	10.27-22	14-19
11.38x27	11-17	12.22x11	16x 7

Here Baba tricked his adversary D. Meijer of Holwerd who thought about drawing:



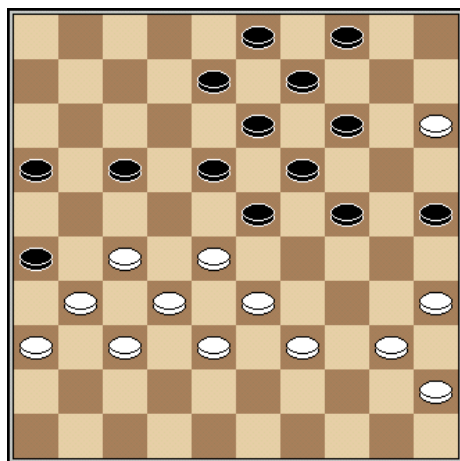
1....	19-23	2.15-10	23x45
3. 10x8	12x 3	4.21x 1	30-34
5. 1x40	45x43		

Here Baba Sy made a mistake by hurrying against the player J. Knobbe of Heerenveen



1...	17-22	2.28x17	23-28
3.32x12	14-20	4.25x23	16-21
5.30x	8	21x45	

Here I. of Jong of Heerenveen also fell for the same trick by Baba Sy



1...	24-29	2.33x24	19x30
3.28x10	30-34	4.39x30	25x34
5.40x29	9-14	6.10x19	13x42
7.37x48	26x28		

### Simultaneous matches of Baba Sy<sup>43</sup>

Towns	Players	Victories	Draws	Loses	%
Hengelo (O)	77	73	4	0	
Almelo	67	60	2	5	
Almelo	20	14	4	2	
Meppel	50	40	9	1	
Leeuwarden	48	34	13	1	
Hoogezand	54	39	15	0	
Groningen	55	40	13	2	
Alblasserdam	49	35	11	3	
Leiden	45	42	3	0	
Noord-Scharwoude	45	41	4	0	
Goes	56	45	10	1	
Den Haag	50	42	6	2	
Lent	36	31	5	0	
Bennekom	72	58	14	0	
Ochten	70	66	2	2	
Huissen	74	65	7	2	
Hilversum	40	3	7	1	
Total	967	802	141	24	90,2%

Both in Leeuwarden and on many occasions later in Heereveen and Hoogezand Baba Sy always had the help of the translator and amateur checkist Geert Bosma. The friendship was never lost and Baba Sy made a habit of sending letters, written by other people in Senegal (but bearing Baba Sy's signature), to the daughter of Bosma called Tryntsje. Today the great collection of books and other checker topics of Geert Bosma are located in the Historical and Literary Center Tresoar of the city of Leeuwarden. He also sent a postal letter to Baba

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<sup>43</sup> Magazine "Het Damspel" (1961). Number 2-3, page 30.

Magazine "Het Damspel" (1961). Number 4, page. 15.

The data in the list are not complete and at other times the data are different in other sources. But it will give us an overview of the great publicist work by part of Baba Sy and his popularity in Holland. Everyone wanted to see him and play against him.

Sy in 1967 to Cor Storm<sup>44</sup> with only the text: “Cor Storm bij de molen in Monster”. Translation: “Cor Storm close to a mill in Monster”. Baba Sy was so famous in Holland that the mail workers immediately knew that the card was from the famous checker player Baba Sy and then there was always one among the mail workers who knew how to play checkers and who knew the good checkers player Cor Storm. It seems incredible, but the postal letter arrived at its destination!

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<sup>44</sup> **IVENS, Fred** (2007). De Ansichtkaart kwam aan. Aan Cor Storm bij de molen in Monster. In: Magazine “Het Damspel”, Number 3. Page 24.



# CHAPTER 11

## 1961 Baba Sy, first at the Yalta International Tournament (Russia).

Holland's cold weather was dreadful for Baba Sy and we can suppose that in the early 1961 he came back to Dakar, but first he briefly visited the city of Djenné in Mali with his discoverer Émile Biscons to continue to Casablanca<sup>45</sup>.



**The Great Mosque of Djenné**

The city of Djenné lies in the region of Mopti in the center of Mali, in the delta of the river Niger. Djenné is a historical, religious, and commercial location. The Great Mosque of Djenné is the world's greatest sacred building made of adobe. This mosque is one of Africa's

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<sup>45</sup> “Journal Marocain Newspaper, 1961-1. Thanks to Dr. Diego Rodríguez

most renowned monuments and since 1988 it is considered, along with the ancient helmet of Djenné, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is probable that Baba Sy and Émile Biscons briefly visited the Great Mosque of this city, and once the religious needs were fulfilled they were on their way towards Casablanca.

There the secretary of the Moroccan Federation of Checkers Count of Ayméri of Descallar, as well as its president Sir Hilaire, were waiting for them at the port. The Count of Descallar was a true Frenchman who defended the Moroccan flag at the world championship of checkers in 1960 and presumably he had invited Baba Sy and Biscons to pass by his city. After a tour around the city followed a reception to the daily “Petit Moroccan” where the director warmly congratulated Baba Sy for his checker success and other parties in honor of the great international master<sup>46</sup> were organized. Le Damier Marocain offered wine in his honor at noon. After a nice offering by Mister and Missus Slaoui Baba Sy showed his quick wits at discovering in precisely 14 seconds the mechanism of a very complicated problem and then another instantly. Baba Sy as well as Émile Biscons seemed to have won the Moroccans’ hearts because of their simplicity and smiling modesty, wishing to see them at Casablanca<sup>47</sup> again. After his time in the city Baba Sy came back to Senegal, and we see that the World Checkers Federation during its congress in the city of Haarlem in 1961 because of the proposal of the Russian Federation agreed to give Baba Sy the title of great international master.

In a tournament celebrated in Dakar between 24 and 27 August in 1961 Baba Sy classified first with 17 out of 20 points, which means 7 won games and 3 ties. His friend Abdul Mansor Kouaté was second with 12 points; third and fourth were Doudou Ba and Mahawa with 10 points, and in the fifth place was Lamine N’Diaye with 6 points, while Abrahima Diop got the sixth place with 5 points<sup>48</sup>.













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<sup>46</sup> “Het Damspel” Magazine (1961) N° 4, Page 34

<sup>47</sup> “Journal Marocain Newspaper, 1961-1. Thanks to a Dr. Diego Rodríguez

<sup>48</sup> “Het Damspel” Magazine (1961) November, N° 11. Page 97

Yalta Tournament, 1961

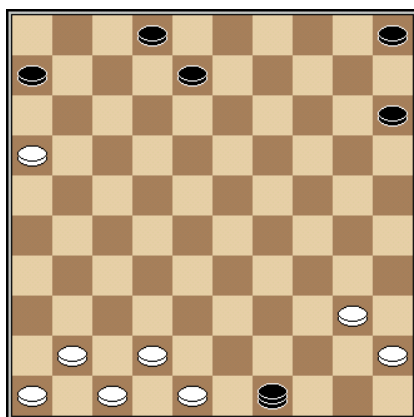
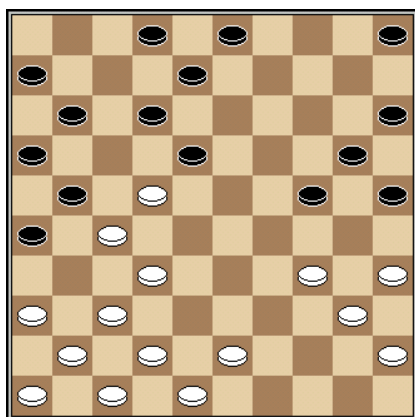
Pl		Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Ga	Wi	Dr	Lo	Pt	SB
1		<u>Baba Sy</u>	X	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	13	6	7	0	19	222
2		<u>Andries Andreiko</u>	1	X	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	13	4	9	0	17	204
3		<u>M. Geller</u>	1	1	X	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	2	13	4	8	1	16	192
		<u>Michael Korchov</u>	1	1	1	X	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	13	4	8	1	16	188
5		<u>Pieter Bergsma</u>	1	1	1	2	X	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	13	4	6	3	14	170
		<u>W. Jepifanow</u>	1	1	0	1	2	X	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	2	13	4	6	3	14	169
		<u>Serguei Davidov</u>	0	1	1	0	2	1	X	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	13	3	8	2	14	158
		<u>Sergei Mansien</u>	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	2	1	1	2	13	2	10	1	14	164
9		<u>Lev Slobodskoi</u>	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	X	1	1	1	1	2	13	1	11	1	13	157
10		<u>Wladimir Agafonow</u>	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	X	2	1	1	2	13	3	6	4	12	131
11		<u>Henk Laros</u>	0	0	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	X	1	1	0	13	3	5	5	11	151
		<u>Michel Hisard</u>	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	X	2	2	13	2	7	4	11	119
13		<u>W. Siarapow</u>	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	X	2	13	1	7	5	9	99
14		<u>Henri Chiland</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	X	13	1	0	12	2	22



From left to right: Shchegolev , Baba Sy, Henry Chiland, Michael Hisard, and Davidov in Moscow, 1961. Photo: Courtesy of Shchegolev

Between 3 and 10 October the Yalta International Tournament was played. Here we see Baba Sy in the best moment of his life, finalizing with two points more than Andris Andreiko. In this tournament Baba Sy won 6 games and Andreiko 4. Baba Sy played like never before - in a foreign country, with foreign people, with foreign food, but none of these were obstacles for Baba to finish first at the tournament. This victory for Baba would gravely erode Russian prestige. In this tournament participated the future world champion Andris Andreiko. In the Yalta tournament Baba Sy stood out on October 10 1961 because of his sophisticated shot of 7 adversary pawns against the Moscowite Agafonov.

En este torneo internacional de Yalta, nuevamente Baba Sy demostró su gran talento, terminando como primero en este torneo. Durante uno de las partidas entre los franceses Michel Hisard y Henri Chiland, observó que en el diagrama siguiente Hisard había jugado 28-22 y que Chiland continuaba con 5-10. Cuando la partida había terminado, Baba Sy demostró inmediatamente a Chiland como podría haber ganado usando un golpe que se conoce en el mundo damístico como “el golpe de Napoleón”.



Solution:

1. 3-9 2. 22x4 12-17 3. 11x22 26-31 4. 37x17 11x31
5. 36x27 12x18 6. 4x22 16-21 7. 27x16 24-29 8. 34x23 25-20
9. 35x24 20x49



**Sitting, from left to right: Michel Hisard, Baba Sy, Henry Chiland, and Shchegolev . Standing; unknown person and Davidov in Moscow, 1961.  
Photo: Courtesy of Dr. Diego Rodríguez from France**

In the beginning of the tournament Baba Sy had some problems since he only got to the boards, but he quickly recovered and by the seventh round was already first in the classification. His victory against Agafonow with a destructive shot of 7 pawns was the admiration of the tournament.

Andris Andreiko

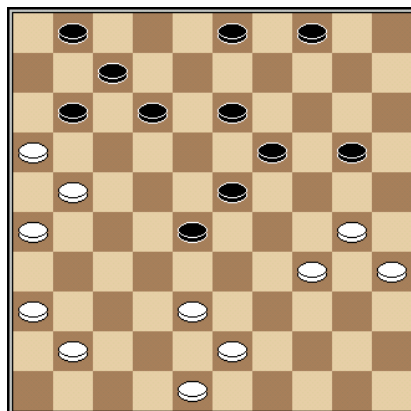
- Baba Sy

1-1

03-10-1961

Yalta

1.34-30	17-21	2.30-25	21-26	3.40-34	11-17	4.44-40	6-11
5.50-44	17-22	6.32-27	11-17	7.38-32	19-23	8.42-38	14-19
9.25x14	9x20	10.47-42	10-14	11.27-21	16x27	12.32x21	7-11
13.21-16	2- 7	14.35-30	20-25	15.40-35	14-20	16.44-40	20-24
17.34-29	23x34	18.40x20	15x24	19.31-27	22x31	20.36x27	25x34
21.39x30	17-22	22.37-31	26x37	23.42x31	22-28	24.33x22	12-17
25.41-36	17x28	26.49-44	8-12	27.44-39	5-10	28.46-41	18-23
29.31-26	10-14	30.27-21	24-29	31.39-34	29x40	32.45x34	14-20

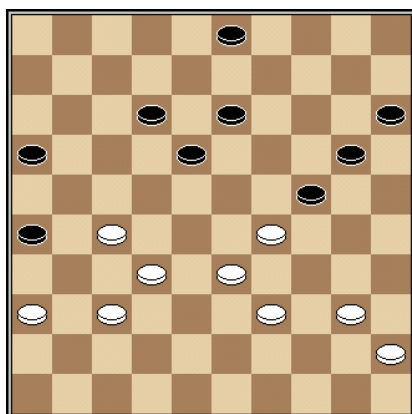


33.41-37	20-24	34.43-39	24-29	35.48-43	29x40	36.35x44	12-18
37.38-33	28-32	38.37x28	23x32	39.36-31	1- 6	40.33-29	7-12
41.16x 7	12x 1	42.21-16	3- 8	43.31-27	32x21	44.16x27	6-11
45.29-24	4- 9	46.43-38	11-17	47.39-33	17-22	48.38-32	22x31
49.26x37	8-12	50.33-28	12-17	51.44-39	9-14	52.39-33	1- 7
53.33-29	18-22	54.37-31	22x33	55.29x38	17-22	56.32-27	22-28
57.27-21	19-23	58.21-17	28-32	59.38x27	23-28	60.27-21	28-33
61.21-16	33-38	62.17-11	7-12	63.11- 6	38-43	64. 6- 1	12-17
65.30-25	43-48	66. 1-23	48x26	67.23x10	26-48		

S. Davidow - Baba Sy 0-2 04-10-1961

Yalta

1.32-28	18-23	2.33-29	23x32	3.37x28	13-18	4.28-22	18x27
5.31x22	17x28	6.29-24	20x29	7.34x32	19-23	8.39-33	12-18
9.44-39	11-17	10.41-37	7-12	11.40-34	14-19	12.46-41	10-14
13.35-30	8-13	14.45-40	2- 8	15.30-25	6-11	16.34-30	14-20
17.25x14	19x10	18.50-45	10-14	19.49-44	14-19	20.39-34	5-10
21.44-39	15-20	22.30-25	10-15	23.25x14	9x20	24.36-31	1- 6
25.41-36	4- 9	26.47-41	9-14	27.32-28	23x32	28.37x28	18-23
29.42-37	23x32	30.37x28	12-18	31.38-32	17-21	32.41-37	21-26
33.43-38	16-21	34.31-27	11-16	35.27-22	18x27	36.28-23	19x28
37.33x31	8-12	38.39-33	12-18	39.33-28	6-11	40.34-29	11-17
41.31-27	17-22	42.28x17	21x12	43.48-43	14-19	44.43-39	19-24
45.38-33							



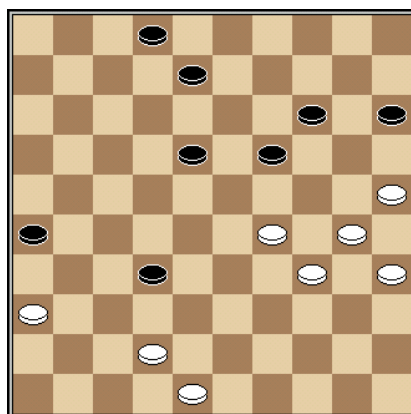
12-17	46.32-28	3- 9	47.40-34	17-22	48.28x17	18-23
49.29x18	13x42	50.17-12	42-48	51.12- 7	24-29	52.33x24
53.45x34	48-37	54.39-33	37-32	55. 7- 1	32-21	56.34-29
57.29-23	21- 3	58.23-19	13x24	59.33-28	3-14	

Baba Sy  
Yalta

- M. Korchow

1-1 05-10-1961

1.32-28 17-21	2.34-30 11-17	3.30-25 7-11	4.40-34 1- 7
5.45-40 18-22	6.34-29 12-18	7.29-24 20x29	8.33x24 19x30
9.25x34 22x33	10.39x28 7-12	11.37-32 14-19	12.43-39 10-14
13.39-33 5-10	14.44-39 19-23	15.28x19 14x23	16.49-43 10-14
17.50-45 14-19	18.42-37 21-27	19.31x22 18x27	20.32x21 16x27
21.37-32 11-16	22.32x21 16x27	23.41-37 6-11	24.37-32 11-16
25.32x21 16x27	26.46-41 13-18	27.41-37 9-13	28.37-32 3- 9
29.32x21 17x26	30.34-29 23x34	31.39x30 18-22	32.30-25 13-18
33.43-39 9-14	34.33-29 22-27	35.39-33 18-22	36.38-32 27x38
37.33x42 4- 9	38.35-30 9-13	39.40-35 12-18	40.45-40 19-23
41.40-34 13-19	42.42-37 22-27	43.47-42 27-32	44.37x28 23x32



45.42-38 32x43	46.48x39 8-13	47.29-24 2- 8	48.39-33 8-12
49.34-29 12-17	50.24-20 15x24	51.29x 9 13x 4	52.30-24 19x30
53.35x24			



L. Slobodskoj, L.

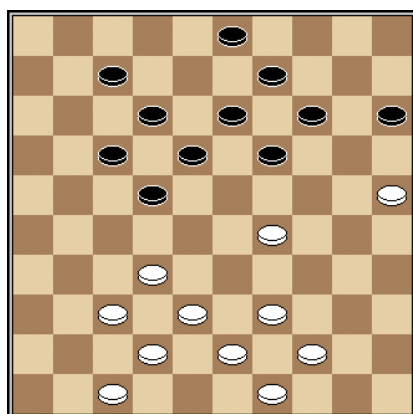
- Baba Sy

1-1

06-10-1961

Yalta

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13.46-41	5-10	14.50-45	14-19	15.34-30	10-14	16.30-24	19x30
17.25x34	14-19	18.34-29	23x34	19.40x29	21-26	20.45-40	17-22
21.40-34	7-11	22.29-24	19x30	23.34x25	22-27	24.32x21	26x17
25.37-32	13-19	26.42-37	8-13	27.48-42	9-14	28.36-31	4-9
29.33-29	2-8	30.31-27	17-22	31.27-21	16x27	32.32x21	11-17
33.21-16	6-11	34.16x7	12x1	35.37-32	8-12	36.41-37	1-7

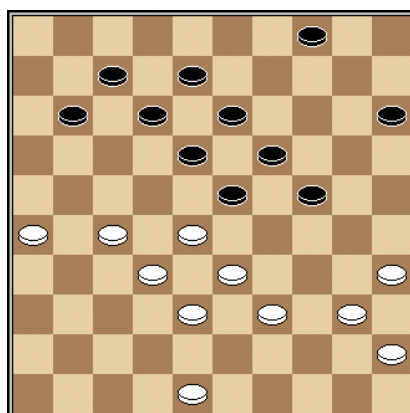


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41.44-39	18-22	42.49-44	13-18	43.33-28	22x33	44.39x28	3-8
45.38-32	15-20	46.42-38	20-24	47.38-33	18-23	48.43-39	9-14
49.37-31	26x37	50.32x41	23x32				

Baba Sy - Henk Laros 2-0 07-10-1961

Yalta

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17.42-37 12-18	18.37-31 18x27	19.31x22 1- 7	20.46-41 7-12
21.41-37 5-10	22.36-31 15-20	23.31-27 10-15	24.34-30 25x34
25.39x30 12-18	26.47-42 8-12	27.43-39 18-23	28.50-45 20-25
29.39-34 11-17	30.22x11 16x 7	31.34-29 25x34	32.29x40 13-18
33.44-39 9-13	34.37-31 26x37	35.42x31 3- 8	36.31-26 6-11



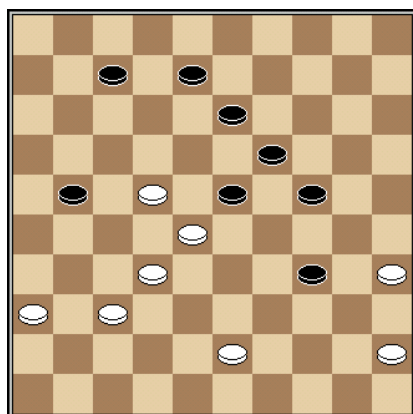
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45.33x 2 12-17	46. 2- 7 17-22	47.38-32 20-25	48. 7-11 8-12
49.11x33 25-30	50.33-42 13-18		

Michel Hisard  
Yalta

- Baba Sy

0-2 09-10-1961

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13.49-43	4- 9	14.37-31	24-29	15.33x24	20x29	16.39-33	14-20
17.25x14	9x20	18.33x24	20x29	19.50-44	17-21	20.31-26	5-10
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25.39-33	13-19	26.33-28	24-29	27.46-41	1- 7	28.41-37	8-13
29.37-31	7-12	30.42-37	14-20	31.47-42	21-26	32.27-22	18x27
33.31x22	20-24	34.44-40	15-20	35.37-31	26x37	36.42x31	2- 7
37.48-42	3- 8	38.31-26	16-21	39.26x17	12x21	40.40-35	20-25
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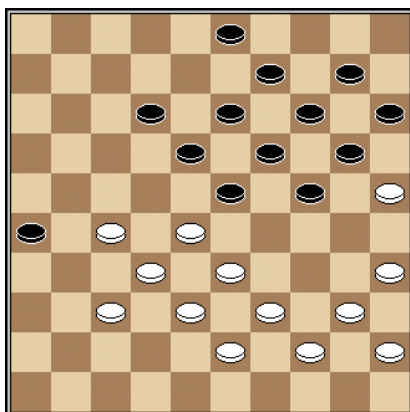
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57.21-16	22-28	58.32-27	28-33	59.27-22	33x42	60.22-17	42-48
61.17-12	7x18	62.16-11	34-39	63.35-30	39-44	64.30-25	44-49
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69. 1- 6	3-25						

Baba Sy  
Yalta

- V. Agafonow

2-0 10-10-1961

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13.37-31	26x37	14.42x31	21-26	15.47-42	26x37	16.42x31	7-12
17.31-26	6-11	18.46-41	14-20	19.25x14	9x20	20.30-25	10-14
21.41-37	4- 9	22.37-31	1- 6	23.49-44	5-10	24.48-42	11-17
25.27-21	16x27	26.31x11	6x17	27.36-31	18-22	28.31-27	22x31
29.26x37	17-21	30.37-31	21-26	31.31-27	12-18	32.42-37	8-12



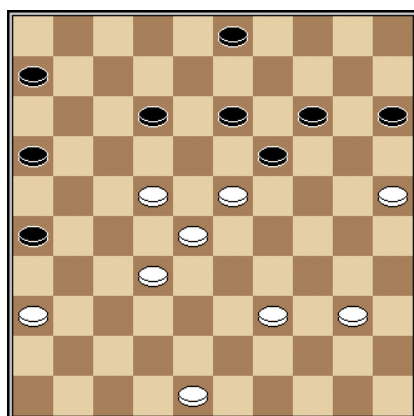
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41.43-38	8-13	42.32-27	18-23	43.27-21	23x43	44. 6- 1	26x17
45.25-20	14x25	46.35-30	24x44	47.34-30	25x34	48. 1x46	

S. Mansjien  
Yalta

- Baba Sy

1-1 11-10-1961

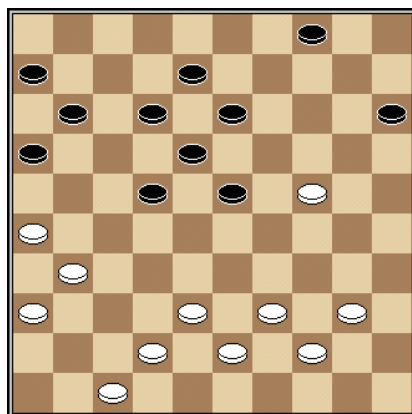
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9.39-33 7-12	10.44-39 8-13	11.50-44 10-14	12.44-40 1- 7
13.35-30 15-20	14.30-25 5-10	15.46-41 10-15	16.32-28 23x32
17.37x28 18-23	18.42-37 23x32	19.37x28 12-18	20.41-37 17-21
21.38-32 21-26	22.43-38 18-23	23.47-42 7-12	24.49-43 20-24
25.34-29 23x34	26.40x20 15x24	27.39-34 4-10	28.45-40 11-17
29.43-39 2- 8	30.31-27 17-21	31.34-29 12-18	32.29x20 19-23
33.28x19 13x15	34.33-28 9-13	35.27-22 18x27	36.37-31 26x37
37.42x22 14-19	38.38-33 21-26	39.33-29 8-12	40.29-23 10-14



41.36-31 26x37	42.32x41 15-20	43.48-42 20-24	44.42-37 6-11
45.37-32 12-17	46.41-37 13-18	47.23x21 16x18	48.37-31 18-23
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Baba Sy - Pieter Bergsma 1-1 13-10-1961  
Yalta

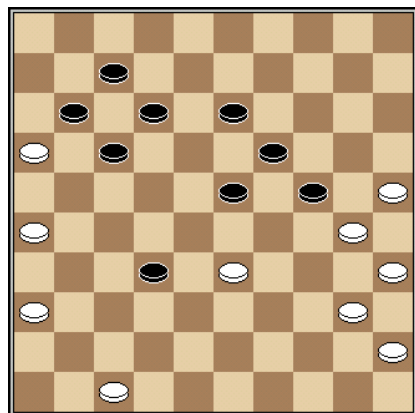
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9.34-29 23x34	10.39x30 20-24	11.30x19 14x23	12.44-39 10-14
13.50-44 14-19	14.46-41 17-22	15.40-34 1- 7	16.32-28 23x32
17.37x17 11x22	18.41-37 19-23	19.34-29 23x34	20.39x30 18-23
21.37-31 12-18	22.31-26 7-12	23.44-39 9-14	24.42-37 14-19
25.37-31 3- 9	26.45-40 9-14	27.48-42 2- 7	28.49-44 7-11
29.30-24 19x30	30.35x24 23-29	31.24-19 14x23	32.33x24 22-27



33.31x22 18x27	34.40-34 23-28	35.34-30 16-21	36.26x17 11x22
37.42-37 13-18	38.37-31 6-11	39.30-25 11-17	40.44-40 17-21
41.31-26 18-23	42.26x17 12x21	43.40-35 21-26	44.39-34 8-12
45.43-39 12-18	46.35-30 26-31	47.47-42 4- 9	48.39-33 28x39
49.34x43 22-28	50.43-39 18-22	51.39-34 9-13	52.34-29 23x34
53.30x39 13-18	54.24-19 28-32	55.19-13 32x34	56.13- 8 34-40
57. 8- 2 40-45	58. 2-16 45-50	59.16x38	

W. Epifanow - Baba Sy 1-1 14-10-1961  
Yalta

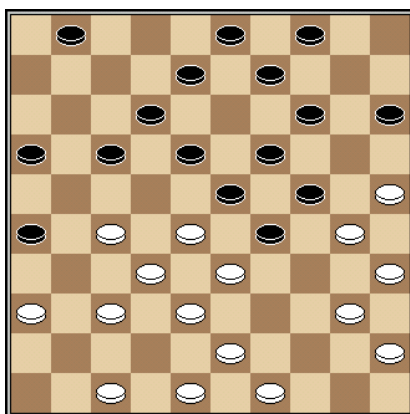
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25.34-29	23x34	26.39x30	19-23	27.43-39	9-13	28.41-36	5-10
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37.40-35	3-9	38.44-40	19-23	39.50-45	9-14	40.39-34	14-19
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45.33-29	24x33	46.25-20	33-38	47.20-15	38-43	48.15-10	43-49
49.30-25	32-38	50.47-41	19-24	51.41-37	13-18	52.37-31	23-28
53.10-4	18-22	54.4x43	49x32	55.31-27	32x21	56.16x27	28-33
57.40-34	33-38	58.27-21	38-42	59.34-30	24-29	60.30-24	29x20
61.25x14	11-16	62.14-10	16x27	63.10-5	42-48	64.5-28	7-11
65.28-23	11-16	66.23x1	48-43				

Baba Sy - W. Sjarapow 2-0 15-10-1961  
Yalta

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17.41-36	23-29	18.37-31	18-23	19.44-40	17-21	20.42-37	21-26
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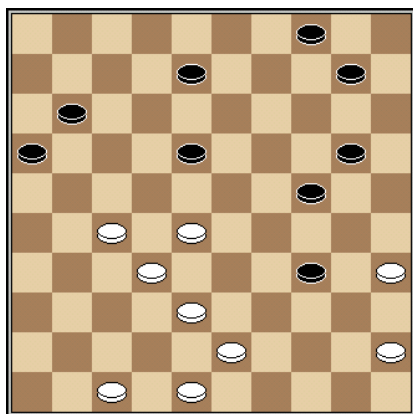
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33.47-42	14-19	34.34-29	24-30	35.42-38	19-24	32.32-28	10-14
37.43-39	7-12	38.37-32	20-25	39.29x20	25x14	36.48-43	8-13
41.38-33	12-18	42.29-24	30-35	43.24-20	3- 9	40.33-29	14-19
45.39x50	1- 7	46.20-15	9-14	47.33-29	14-20	44.45-40	35x44
49.36-31	26x37	50.32x41	13-19	51.41-37	7-11	48.15x24	19x30
53.29x18	30-34					52.37-31	18-23



M. Geller - Baba Sy  
Yalta

1-1 17-10-1961

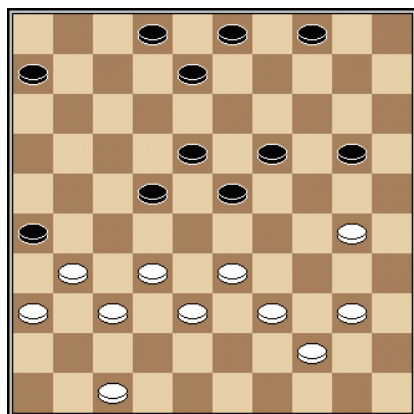
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9.37-32	19-23	10.28x19	14x23	11.41-37	10-14	12.50-44	14-19
13.35-30	5-10	14.30-25	10-14	15.34-30	1- 7	16.30-24	19x30
17.25x34	14-19	18.33-28	17-22	19.28x17	12x21	20.39-33	7-12
21.44-39	9-14	22.31-27	14-20	23.33-28	21-26	24.40-35	20-24
25.34-30	11-17	26.39-33	17-22	27.28x17	12x21	28.33-28	24-29
29.49-44	2- 7	30.30-25	3- 9	31.37-31	26x37	32.42x31	9-14
33.44-39	14-20	34.25x14	19x10	35.28x19	13x24	36.31-26	7-11
37.26x17	11x31	38.36x27	15-20	39.39-33	29-34	40.33-28	6-11



41.47-42	10-14	42.42-37	14-19	43.37-31	8-12	44.31-26	4- 9
45.27-21	16x27	46.32x21	9-13	47.38-32	20-25	48.32-27	34-39
49.43x34	24-30	50.35x24	19x39	51.28-23	18x29	52.27-22	11-16
53.22-17	16x27	54.17x19					

Baba Sy - Henry Chiland 2-0 18-10-1961  
Yalta



1.32-28	18-23	2.33-29	23x32	3.37x28	19-24	4.39-33	14-19
5.41-37	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.37-32	12-18	8.46-41	7-12
9.41-37	1-7	10.44-39	19-23	11.28x19	14x23	12.50-44	10-14
13.35-30	5-10	14.30-25	16-21	15.34-30	21-26	16.39-34	17-22
17.33-28	22x33	18.38x29	11-17	19.30-24	14-19	20.34-30	23x34
21.30x39	19x30	22.25x34	10-14	23.43-38	18-23	24.39-33	12-18
25.34-29	23x34	26.40x29	17-22	27.44-39	7-11	28.32-28	14-19
29.28x17	11x22	30.38-32	19-23	31.48-43	23x34	32.39x30	18-23
33.43-39	13-18	34.49-44	9-13	35.42-38	13-19	36.45-40	15-20



37.31-27 22x42 38.36-31 26x28 39.33x15 42x33 40.39x19

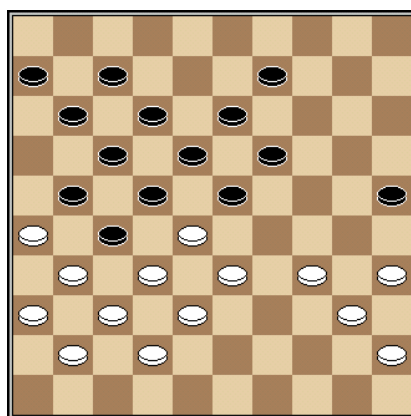
Between November 12 and December 14, 1961 there was a match of 20 games between Shchegolev, world champion (1960) and his challenger Iser Kuperman. The match was won by Kuperman with 18-22 and thus Iser Kuperman was crowned world champion again. Kuperman showed once more that he was very strong in matches. His third game was a real gem as showed hereafter.

Match for the World Championship 1961.

Pl		Naam	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Tot
1		<u>Iser Koeperman</u>	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	22
2		<u>Viacheslav Shchegolev</u>	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	18

Iser Koepman - W. Sjtsjogoljew 2-0 15-11-1961  
Wch

1.32-28	17-21	2.31-26	12-17	3.37-32	7-12	4.41-37	18-22
5.34-29	19-24	6.40-34	14-19	7.37-31	21-27	8.32x21	16x27
9.46-41	1- 7	10.42-37	11-16	11.48-42	7-11	12.45-40	20-25
13.29x20	25x14	14.34-29	19-24	15.29x20	15x24	16.40-34	14-19
17.37-32	16-21	18.41-37	13-18	19.50-45	10-15	20.44-40	9-13
21.34-29	3- 9	22.29x20	15x24	23.39-34	5-10	24.49-44	10-15
25.43-39	9-14	26.34-29	4- 9	27.29x20	15x24	28.39-34	2- 7
29.34-29	18-23	30.29x20	14x25	31.40-34	12-18	32.44-40	8-12
33.47-41							



25-30	34.35x24	19x39	35.28x 8	12x 3	36.33x44	18-23
37.40-34	7-12	38.45-40	9-14	39.40-35	14-19	40.34-29
41.32-28	22x33	42.38x40	3- 8	43.31x22	17x28	44.26x17
45.35-30	11-17	46.40-34	8-13	47.44-39	13-18	48.30-24
49.34x25	18-22	50.42-38	21-27	51.37-31	6-11	52.31-26
53.38-33	27-32	54.41-37	32x41	55.36x47	28-32	56.25-20
57.20-14						

## CHAPTER 12

### 1961-1962 Baba Sy, first at the Lucas Bols Tournament,

Two months later on 26 December 1961 and 3 January 1962 we find Baba Sy participating in the Lucas Bols Tournament double round or come back in Amsterdam. Eight players participated and again Baba Sy came in first, showing his great dominion of the game. Baba Sy was in great shape since he had won his first 6 games - something that remained engraved in the mind of the future world champion Tonny Sijbrands. The first game he won against his neighbor Mansur Kouaté. In this tournament Baba Sy was from another level regarding the other player Geert van Dijk and he was on his part on a different level against the others. This time this tournament had great success and was much better than the previous two.

#### Clasificación del Torneo de Lucas Bols, 1962

Nº	Jugadores	País	S	D	K	G	B	A	D	V	Total
01	Baba Sy	Senegal	X	11	22	21	22	21	21	22	23
02	Geert .E. van Dijk	Holanda	11	X	20	22	21	21	11	12	19
03	Abdula Mansur Kouaté	Senegal	00	02	X	12	11	11	21	11	14
04	Claude Gournier	Francia	01	00	10	X	21	21	12	12	14
05	Piet Bakhuizen	Holanda	00	01	11	01	X	12	12	21	13
06	Tammo Aeilkema	Holanda	01	01	11	01	10	X	21	21	12
07	Bernard Devauchelle	Francia	01	11	01	10	10	01	X	11	9
08	Joop Verhey	Holanda	00	10	11	10	01	01	11	X	8



**Baba Sy and Mansur Kouaté at the opening day of the Lucas Bols Tournament, 26 December 1961. Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3394. Photographer: Harry Pot**

Here we see Baba with his inseparable friend Mansur Kouaté. Baba was a true gentleman and Kouaté a man to serve. It was normal to see Kouaté with two bags on his shoulders, his own and Baba Sy's. Baba Sy always carried with him his prayer floor mat<sup>49</sup>. He was from a very important ethnicity and moved with great sympathy and dignity.

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<sup>49</sup> Thanks to Dr. Diego Rodríguez – France.

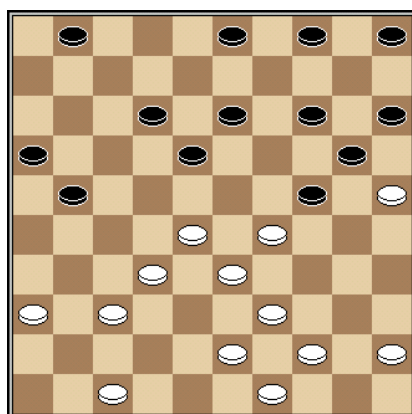
Baba Sy  
Lucas Bols

- Abdula Mansur Kouaté

2-0

26-12-1961

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.34-30	14-19
5.30-25	9-14	6.41-37	20-24	7.40-34	24-29	8.33x24	19x30
9.35x24	23-28	10.32x23	18x20	11.37-32	12-18	12.46-41	7-12
13.41-37	17-22	14.34-29	13-19	15.39-33	11-17	16.31-26	22-27
17.32x21	16x27	18.37-32	17-21	19.26x17	12x21	20.32-28	8-13
21.44-39	19-24	22.42-37	6-11	23.38-32	27x38	24.43x32	11-16
25.48-43	2-7	26.50-44	7-12				



				27.32-27	21x34	28.39x17	20-24
29.44-39	3-8	30.36-31	4-9	31.31-27	9-13	32.37-32	14-19
33.43-38	5-10	34.49-44	10-14	35.44-40	8-12	36.17x8	13x2
37.32-28	1-7	38.27-22	18x27	39.28-23	19x28	40.33x31	7-12
41.31-27	12-18	42.39-33	14-19	43.40-35	2-8	44.45-40	18-23
45.40-34	8-13	46.34-30	13-18	47.25-20	23-29	48.38-32	29x38
49.32x43	24-29	50.30-24	19x30	51.35x33	15x24	52.33-29	24x33
53.43-38	33x42	54.47x38					



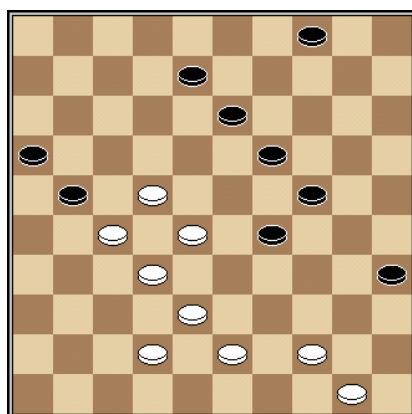
**Tammo Aeilkema against Geert van Dijk. Here we see Baba Sy as a viewer on  
December 26 1962 Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3395  
Photographer: Harry Pot**



Bernard Devauchelle - Baba Sy 0-2 27-12-1961

Lucas Bols

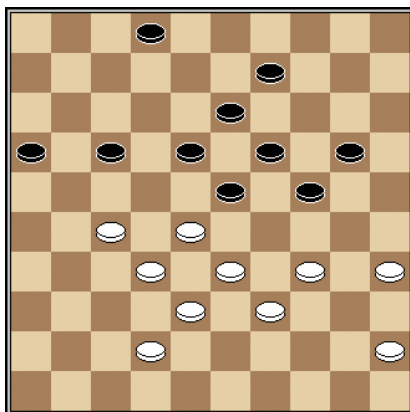
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9.36-31	12-18	10.31-27	7-12	11.46-41	17-22	12.28x17	12x21
13.39-33	20-24	14.33-28	15-20	15.38-33	5-10	16.43-38	10-15
17.44-39	24-29	18.33x24	20x29	19.49-43	15-20	20.41-36	18-22
21.28x17	21x12	22.39-33	20-24	23.33-28	12-17	24.43-39	17-21
25.40-34	29x40	26.35x44	1- 7	27.39-33	14-20	28.25x14	9x20
29.28-22	20-25	30.33-28	3- 9	31.37-31	26x37	32.42x31	9-14
33.31-26	7-12	34.26x17	12x21	35.36-31	2- 7	36.31-26	7-12
37.26x17	12x21	38.45-40	14-20	39.44-39	24-29	40.39-34	20-24
41.40-35	29x40	42.35x44	25-30	43.47-42	30-35	44.48-43	23-29



45.42-37	24-30	46.50-45	30-34	47.37-31	21-26	48.44-39	26x37
49.39x30	35x24	50.32x41	8-12	51.41-37	24-30	52.37-31	29-34
53.38-32	12-17	54.22x11	16x 7	55.27-22	30-35	56.31-27	35-40
57.27-21	40-44	58.21-16	34-39	59.43x34	44-50		

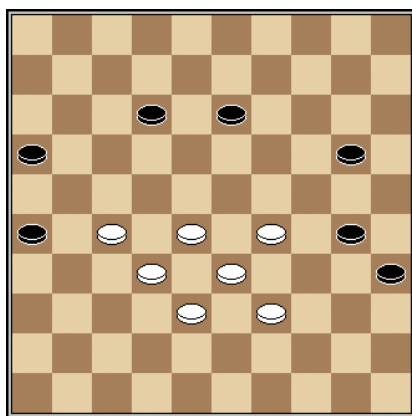
Baba Sy - Claude Cournier 2-0 27-12-1961  
 Lucas Bols

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5.30-25 17-21	6.25x14 19x10	7.40-34 10-14	8.45-40 5-10
9.41-37 18-22	10.31-27 22x31	11.37x17 11x22	12.50-45 12-18
13.46-41 14-19	14.41-37 16-21	15.37-31 21-27	16.32x21 22-28
17.33x22 18x16	18.39-33 7-12	19.44-39 1-7	20.31-27 6-11
21.38-32 11-17	22.36-31 12-18	23.49-44 7-12	24.33-28 10-14
25.42-38 4-10	26.39-33 17-22	27.28x17 12x21	28.33-28 8-12
29.44-39 15-20	30.39-33 10-15	31.43-39 20-24	32.47-42 14-20
33.34-30 20-25	34.31-26 25x43	35.26x8 3x12	36.48x39 12-17
37.40-34 15-20			



41.42-38 20-25	38.27-22 18x27	39.32x12 23x43	40.39x48 19-23
45.12-7 13-19	42.34-30 25x34	43.33-28 23x43	44.48x8 2x13
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	50.40-34 29x40	51.35x44	

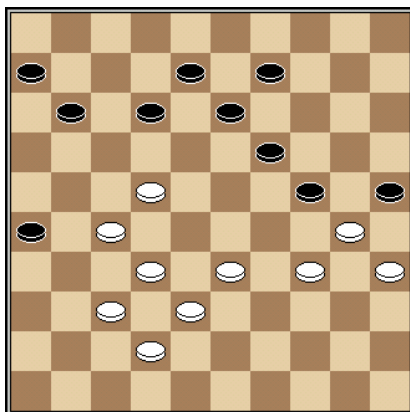
Geert van Dijk	- Abdula Mansur Kouate	2-0	27-12-1961
Lucas Bols			
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5.37-31 15-20	6.49-43 10-15	7.34-29 23x34	8.40x29 20-25
9.29x20 15x24	10.27-22 18x27	11.31x22 5-10	12.44-40 10-15
13.40-34 14-20	14.45-40 24-30	15.35x24 19x30	16.41-37 13-19
17.46-41 30-35	18.50-44 20-24	19.34-29 9-13	20.29x20 25x14
21.33-29 15-20	22.38-33 20-25	23.42-38 4-10	24.40-34 10-15
25.36-31 14-20	26.41-36 19-24	27.44-40 35x44	28.39x50 13-19
29.43-39 8-13	30.47-42 3- 9	31.50-44 9-14	32.31-27 24-30
33.29-23 30-35	34.33-29 17-21	35.23-18 12x23	36.29x 9 14x 3
37.38-33 2- 8	38.22-17 11x31	39.37x17 1- 7	40.36-31 8-13
41.42-38 20-24	42.31-27 7-12	43.17x 8 3x12	44.48-42 24-30
45.33-29 19-24	46.29x20 15x24	47.38-33 6-11	48.34-29 11-17
49.29x20 25x14	50.33-29 14-20	51.39-33 17-21	52.42-38 21-26
53.44-39			



	12-17	54.27-21 16x27	55.32x12 26-31	56.12- 7 31-36
57. 7- 1 36-41	58.28-22 41-47	59.29-23 20-24	60.22-18 13x22	
61.38-32 47x18	62. 1x25 35-40	63.39-34 40x29	64.25-39	

Abdula Mansur Kouate - Bernard Devauchelle 2-0 27-12-1961  
 Lucas Bols

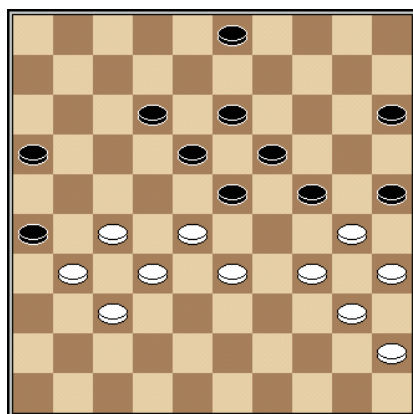
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9.31-27	22x31	10.37x26	19-23	11.28x19	14x23	12.41-37	10-14
13.33-28	14-19	14.39-33	20-24	15.29x20	25x14	16.34-29	23x34
17.40x29	19-24	18.29x20	15x24	19.43-39	14-19	20.49-43	4-10
21.47-41	10-15	22.37-31	18-23	23.41-37	13-18	24.45-40	8-13
25.31-27	2- 8	26.37-31	9-14	27.40-34	14-20	28.34-29	23x34
29.39x30	20-25	30.44-39	25x34	31.39x30	17-21	32.26x17	12x21
33.43-39	7-12	34.27-22	18x27	35.31x22	11-17	36.22x11	16x 7
37.36-31	21-26	38.31-27	7-11	39.28-22	15-20	40.42-37	20-25
41.39-34	3- 9	42.48-42					



9-14 43.22-17 11x31 44.32-27 31x22  
 45.33-28 22x33 46.38x

Tammo Aeilkema - Baba Sy 0-2 28-12-1961  
 Lucas Bols

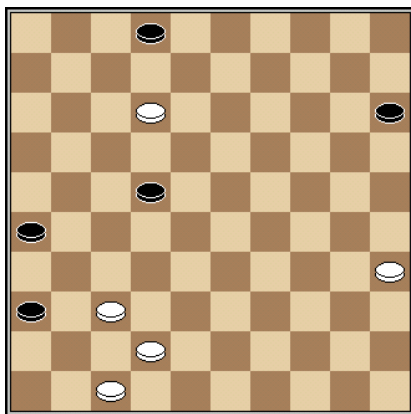
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5.39-33 14-19	6.41-37 17-21	7.44-39 5-10	8.37-32 21-26
9.50-44 26x37	10.32x41 10-14	11.41-37 12-17	12.46-41 7-12
13.38-32 16-21	14.43-38 1- 7	15.33-29 21-26	16.29-24 20x29
17.34x23 18x29	18.28-22 17x28	19.32x34 12-18	20.37-32 11-17
21.41-37 17-21	22.39-33 7-12	23.44-39 21-27	24.32x21 26x17
25.49-43 15-20	26.37-32 20-24	27.32-27 6-11	28.42-37 11-16
29.34-30 18-23	30.30-25 13-18	31.37-32 17-21	32.47-42 21-26
33.42-37 8-13	34.33-28 2- 8	35.39-34 12-17	36.34-30 17-21
37.43-39 8-12	38.39-33 12-17	39.48-43 14-20	40.25x14 9x20
41.43-39 20-25	42.39-34 17-22	43.28x17 21x12	44.33-28 4-10
45.38-33 10-15	46.36-31 24-29		



			47.33x24 12-17	48.28-22 17x28
49.34-29 25x34	50.24-20 15x33	51.40x38		

Baba Sy - Joop Verheij 2-0 28-12-1961  
 Lucas Bols

1.32-28	17-22	2.28x17	11x22	3.37-32	6-11	4.34-30	1- 6
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17.37-32	19-23	18.28x19	14x34	19.40x29	8-12	20.25x14	10x19
21.41-37	21-27	22.32x21	16x27	23.29-24	19x30	24.35x24	27-31
25.36x27	22x31	26.38-32	31-36	27.43-38	9-14	28.45-40	5-10
29.40-34	17-21	30.32-28	14-19	31.33-29	19x30	32.34x25	12-17
33.38-33	17-22	34.28x17	21x12	35.42-38	10-14	36.44-40	18-22
37.39-34	6-11	38.40-35	12-18	39.34-30	3- 8	40.48-42	11-16
41.49-43	16-21	42.43-39	21-27	43.29-23	18x29	44.33x24	14-19
45.39-33	13-18	46.24x13	8x19	47.38-32	27x29	48.30-24	29x20
49.25x12							



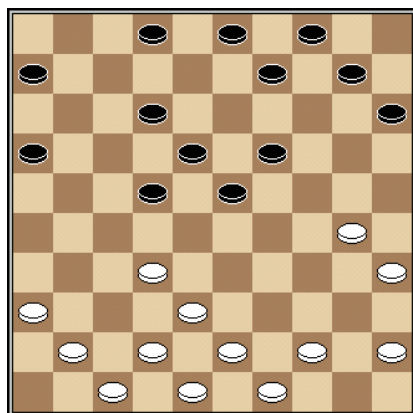
Verhey se rindió, pero la posición es tablas.

49. ....15-20	50.35-30	22-27
51.42-38	2-8	52.12x3
53.3x25	31x33	27-31

Claude Gournier - Abdula Mansur Kouate 1-1 28-12-1961

Lucas Bols

1.34-29	19-23	2.40-34	14-19	3.45-40	10-14	4.50-45	5-10
5.31-27	17-22	6.37-31	11-17	7.31-26	22x31	8.26x37	6-11
9.32-28	23x32	10.37x28	1- 6	11.29-24	20x29	12.34x23	18x29
13.33x24	19x30	14.35x24	12-18	15.41-37	7-12	16.46-41	17-22
17.28x17	11x22	18.39-34	14-19	19.34-30	19-23	20.40-35	13-19
21.24x13	8x19	22.37-32					

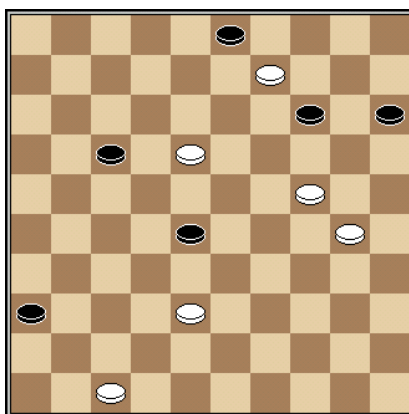


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25.32-27	10-14	26.37-31	9-13	27.42-38	15-20	28.47-42	20-24
29.44-40	19-23	30.49-44	14-19	31.44-39	12-17	32.31-26	2- 7
33.38-32	7-11	34.39-34	24-30	35.35x24	19x39	36.43x34	13-19
37.42-38	19-24	38.40-35	4- 9	39.48-43	9-13	40.43-39	17-21
41.26x17	11x31	42.36x27	3- 8	43.39-33	8-12	44.33-28	23-29
45.34x23	18x29	46.27-21	16x27	47.32x21	25-30	48.28-22	30-34
49.22-17	12-18	50.21-16	13-19	51.38-32	34-39	52.32-27	39-43
53.27-22	18x27	54.17-12	43-48	55.12- 8	27-31	56. 8- 3	31-36
57. 3-17	48-26	58.17-28	26-42	59.28x 5	29-33	60. 5-32	33-39
61.45-40	42-48	62.32-10	39-43	63.10-15	24-30	64.35x24	48-26
65.24-19	43-49	66.15-24	49x35	67.16-11	6x17	68.24-33	

Abdula Mansur Kouate - Tammo Aeilkema 1-1 28-12-1961

Lucas Bols

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.34-30	14-19
5.30-25	17-21	6.25x14	19x10	7.31-26	21-27	8.32x21	16x27
9.41-37	10-14	10.46-41	14-19	11.37-31	5-10	12.31x22	18x27
13.41-37	12-18	14.33-29	23x34	15.40x29	10-14	16.45-40	8-12
17.40-34	18-22	18.38-32	27x38	19.42x33	12-18	20.37-32	11-16
21.36-31	7-11	22.31-27	22x31	23.26x37	11-17	24.44-40	17-21
25.43-38	21-26	26.50-45	6-11	27.49-43	1-6	28.35-30	18-22
29.40-35	16-21	30.29-24	11-16	31.34-29	21-27	32.32x21	16x27
33.37-32	6-11	34.32x21	26x17	35.30-25	19x30	36.25x34	11-16
37.38-32	14-19	38.43-38	17-21	39.32-28	21-27	40.28x17	19-23
41.29x18	13x11	42.33-28	16-21	43.39-33	11-16	44.34-29	2-8
45.45-40	8-12	46.40-34	21-26	47.35-30	16-21	48.30-24	26-31
49.38-32	27x38	50.33x42	21-27	51.48-43	9-13	52.43-38	13-18
53.34-30	12-17	54.28-23	18-22	55.24-19	4-10	56.19-13	31-37
57.42x31	27x36	58.23-18	22-28	59.29-24	10-14	60.13-9	



					28-32
61.38x27	17-22	62.9x20	22x31	63.18-12	31-37
64.12-7	37-41	65.7-1	41-46	66.1-34	46-5
67.34-48	5-10	68.48-39	10-5	69.39-22	5-46
70.30-25	46-5	71.22-9	3x14	72.20x9	5-46
73.9-3	46-5	74.3-21	15-20		



Piet Bakhuizen

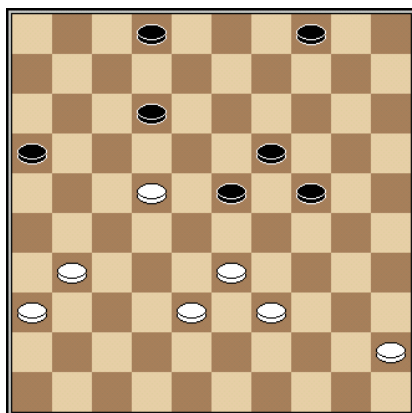
- Baba Sy

0-2

29-12-1961

Lucas Bols

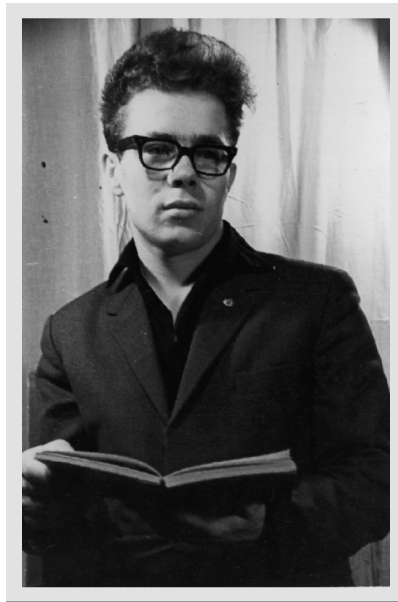
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9.25x34	14-19	10.38-33	22-27	11.32x21	26x17	12.37-32	10-14
13.42-38	5-10	14.41-37	17-21	15.32-28	21-26	16.37-32	26x37
17.32x41	11-17	18.41-37	17-22	19.28x17	12x21	20.38-32	7-12
21.43-38	6-11	22.49-43	11-17	23.35-30	19-23	24.30-25	14-19
25.34-30	10-14	26.30-24	19x30	27.25x34	14-19	28.47-42	9-14
29.34-29	23x34	30.40x29	14-20	31.32-28	19-23	32.28x19	13x24
33.38-32	8-13	34.32-28	3- 8	35.46-41	21-26	36.37-32	13-19
37.41-37	20-25	38.29x20	15x24	39.43-38	17-21	40.37-31	26x37
41.42x31	18-23	42.39-34	21-26	43.34-29	23x34	44.44-40	26x37
45.40x20	25x14	46.32x41	12-18	47.48-43	19-24	48.36-31	14-19
49.43-39	8-12	50.41-36	18-23	51.28-22			



					23-28	52.22-18	12x23
53.33x22	24-30	54.31-27	23-29	55.22-17	19-24	56.39-33	29-34
57.27-21	16x27	58.17-11	30-35	59.11- 6	24-30	60.33-28	34-39
61.28-23	39-44	62. 6- 1	44-50	63.23-18	50-22	64. 1- 6	22x 9
65. 6-39	9-25	66.39-44	30-34	67.44-49	34-40	68.45x34	25x32
69.36-31	27x36	70.49x16					



**Baba Sy observing the play of his countryman Abdula Mansur Kouaté.  
Photo: FMJD.**



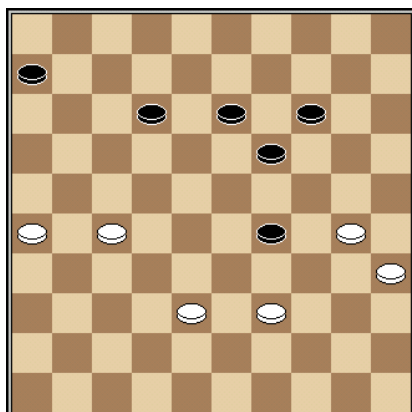
**Viacheslav Shchegolev in 1961 (Photo: FMJD)**

Baba Sy - Geert van Dijk

1-1 29-12-1961

Lucas Bols

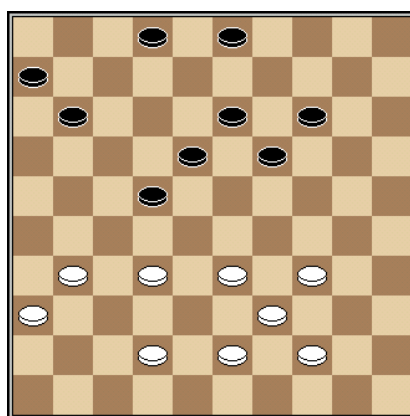
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9.30-25	1- 7	10.25x14	19x10	11.41-37	16-21	12.46-41	21-26
13.40-34	10-14	14.44-40	5-10	15.50-44	14-19	16.35-30	10-14
17.30-24	19x30	18.34x25	14-19	19.40-34	15-20	20.25x14	19x10
21.32-28	23x32	22.37x28	17-22	23.28x17	11x22	24.41-37	10-14
25.38-32	14-19	26.43-38	9-14	27.45-40	4-10	28.40-35	7-11
29.33-28	22x33	30.39x28	11-17	31.44-39	19-23	32.28x19	14x23
33.39-33	17-22	34.32-27	22x31	35.36x27	12-17	36.37-32	17-22
37.49-43	22x31	38.32-28	23x32	39.38x36	13-19	40.42-37	8-13
41.43-38	2- 8	42.47-42	3- 9	43.37-31	26x37	44.42x31	10-15
45.31-27	15-20	46.36-31	8-12	47.31-26	9-14	48.48-43	18-23
49.43-39	20-24	50.34-30	23-29	51.38-32	29x38	52.32x43	24-29
53.43-38							



29-34 54.30-24 34x21 55.26x 8 13x 2 56.24x13

Joop Verheij - Abdul Mansur Kouate 1-1 29-12-1961  
 Lucas Bols

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	5-10
5.34-29	23x34	6.40x29	14-19	7.46-41	10-14	8.44-40	19-24
9.50-44	14-19	10.40-34	20-25	11.29x20	25x14	12.32-28	17-22
13.28x17	11x22	14.37-32	6-11	15.32-27	11-17	16.31-26	22x31
17.26x37	1- 6	18.44-40	7-11	19.37-32	18-23	20.41-37	13-18
21.35-30	8-13	22.30-25	17-21	23.34-30	15-20	24.30-24	20x29
25.33x24	19x30	26.25x34	14-19	27.38-33	9-14	28.42-38	21-27
29.32x21	16x27	30.37-31	18-22	31.34-29	23x34	32.40x29	12-18
33.38-32	27x38	34.43x32	14-20	35.48-43	19-24	36.49-44	4- 9
37.45-40	13-19	38.40-34	9-13	39.47-42	20-25	40.29x20	25x14

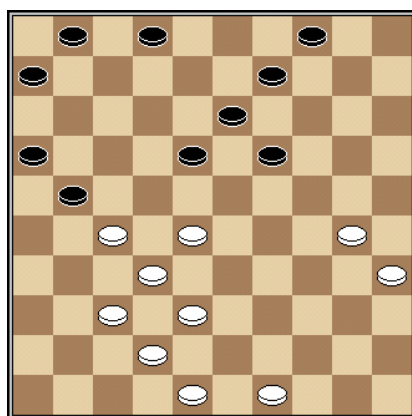


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45.43-38	14-20	46.33-28	20-24	47.38-33	7-12	48.34-29	3- 8
49.29x20	19-23	50.28x19	13x15	51.42-37	15-20	52.39-34	8-13
53.33-29	20-25	54.29-24	18-23	55.34-30	25x34	56.24-20	23-29
57.20-15	29-33	58.15-10	13-18	59.27-21	34-39	60.44-40	39-43
61.10- 4							

Abdul Mansur Kouate - Piet Bakhuizen 1-1 29-12-1961

Lucas Bols

1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x34	3.40x29	20-25	4.37-32	14-20
5.41-37	20-24	6.29x20	25x14	7.46-41	15-20	8.45-40	20-24
9.31-27	17-21	10.36-31	12-18	11.41-36	21-26	12.40-34	7-12
13.50-45	10-15	14.44-40	14-20	15.27-22	18x27	16.31x22	12-17
17.37-31	26x37	18.32x41	20-25	19.41-37	16-21	20.37-32	5-10
21.42-37	10-14	22.47-42	14-20	23.34-30	25x34	24.39x30	19-23
25.30x19	23x14	26.33-29	20-24	27.29x20	15x24	28.40-34	11-16
29.22x11	16x 7	30.36-31	7-11	31.43-39	13-18	32.39-33	8-13
33.34-29	13-19	34.29x20	14x25	35.33-29	19-24	36.29x20	25x14
35.35-30	9-13	38.45-40	14-19	39.31-27	11-16	40.40-35	3- 9



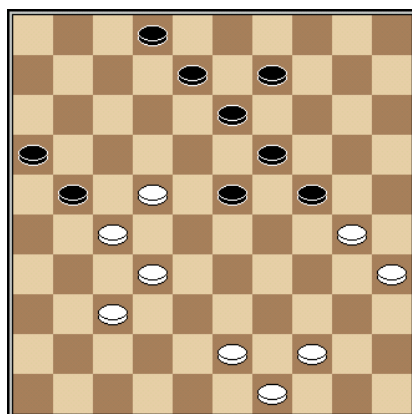
41.30-24	19x30	42.35x24	9-14	43.38-33	14-19	44.42-38	19x30
45.28-23	18x29	46.33x35	1- 7	47.35-30	7-12	48.30-24	12-18
49.38-33	6-11	50.49-44	11-17	51.44-39	4- 9	52.39-34	2- 8
53.37-31	17-22	54.31-26	22x31	55.26x37	21-27	56.32x21	16x27
57.24-20	9-14	58.20x 9	13x 4	59.34-29	8-13	60.37-32	27x38
61.33x42	13-19	62.42-38	19-23	63.29-24	18-22		

Abdula Mansur Kouaté  
Lucas Bols

- Baba Sy

0-2 30-12-1961

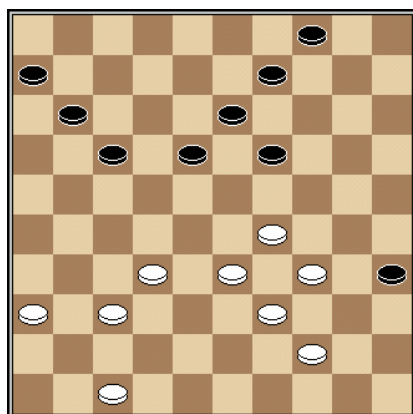
1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.34-29	23x34	4.40x29	20-25
5.37-32	10-14	6.41-37	14-20	7.46-41	20-24	8.29x20	25x14
9.45-40	14-19	10.40-34	5-10	11.32-28	10-14	12.37-32	17-22
13.28x17	12x21	14.31-26	7-12	15.26x17	12x21	16.41-37	1- 7
17.36-31	21-26	18.31-27	7-12	19.33-28	11-17	20.39-33	17-22
21.28x17	12x21	22.33-28	4-10	23.38-33	19-23	24.28x19	14x23
25.47-41	6-11	26.32-28	23x32	27.27x38	11-17	28.44-39	10-14
29.50-44	13-19	30.38-32	8-13	31.43-38	17-22	32.41-36	21-27
33.32x21	26x17	34.38-32	18-23	35.37-31	15-20	36.31-27	22x31
37.36x27	20-24	38.33-29	24x33	39.39x28	14-20	40.42-37	17-21
41.34-30	3- 8	42.48-43	20-24	43.28-22			



				24-29	44.43-38	23-28	
45.32x12	21x41	46.30-25	29-34	47.25-20	41-46	48.38-33	34-40
49.20-15	40-45	50.44-40	45x34	51.33-29	34x23	52.22-18	13x22
53.15-10	46-41	54.10- 5	22-28	55. 5-10	41-37	56.10-15	37-26
57.12- 7	2x11	58.35-30	26- 3	59.30-25	3-14	60.15-20	14- 5
61.20-42	11-17	62.42-26	16-21	63.25-20	28-32	64.26-48	32-38
65.48-39	38-42	66.39x 6	42-48	67. 6- 1	23-28	68.20-14	5x19
69.49-43	48x39	70. 1-23	19- 2	71.23x16	39-11	72.16x 7	2x16

Baba Sy - Bernard Devauchelle 1-1 30-12-1961  
 Lucas Bols

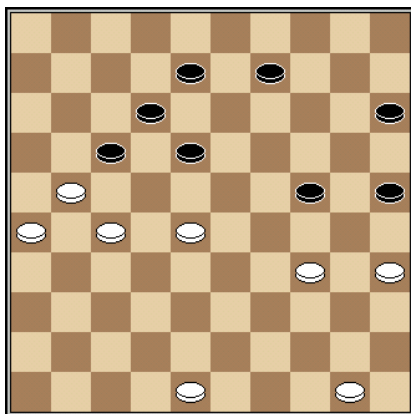
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5.41-37	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.37-32	12-18	8.46-41	7-12
9.41-37	19-23	10.28x19	14x23	11.44-39	10-14	12.50-44	5-10
13.35-30	17-21	14.30-25	21-26	15.34-29	23x34	16.40x29	1-7
17.33-28	16-21	18.39-33	21-27	19.31x22	18x27	20.32x21	26x17
21.37-32	12-18	22.44-39	7-12	23.42-37	14-19	24.29-23	18x29
25.33x24	19x30	26.25x34	10-14	27.39-33	14-19	28.43-39	12-18
29.34-29	19-24	30.29x20	15x24	31.28-22	18x27	32.32x12	8x17
33.39-34	2-8	34.34-29	24-30	35.48-43	8-12	36.43-39	9-14
37.45-40	30-35	38.40-34	3-9	39.49-44	12-18	40.38-32	14-19



41.36-31	17-22	42.47-42	4-10	43.31-27	22x31	44.37x26	10-14
45.42-37	11-17	46.33-28	19-24	47.29x20	14x25	48.34-29	6-11
49.28-23	35-40	50.23x21	40x49	51.21-16	49x27	52.16x7	27-22
53.39-34	22-28	54.37-31	28-22	55.7-2	22x36	56.2x35	36-41
57.35-24	41-10	58.24-35	10-32	59.35-49	32-10	60.49-44	9-13
61.44-39	13-18						

Abdul Mansur Kouate - Geert van Dijk 2-0 30-12-1961  
Lucas Bols

1.32-28	18-23	2.34-29	23x34	3.40x29	12-18	4.44-40	7-12
5.37-32	19-23	6.28x19	14x34	7.40x29	10-14	8.41-37	14-19
9.46-41	1-7	10.45-40	17-21	11.32-27	21x32	12.37x28	19-23
13.28x19	13x24	14.41-37	16-21	15.37-32	21-26	16.32-28	26x37
17.42x31	9-13	18.40-34	11-17	19.38-32	5-10	20.43-38	7-11
21.49-43	13-19	22.32-27	8-13	23.38-32	3-8	24.43-38	17-22
25.28x17	11x22	26.31-26	22x31	27.36x27	4-9	28.32-28	2-7
29.38-32	20-25	30.29x20	25x14	31.47-42	6-11	32.28-22	11-16
33.26-21	7-11	34.42-37	11-17	35.22x11	16x7	36.37-31	7-11
37.33-28	19-23	38.28x19	14x23	39.39-33	15-20	40.31-26	10-15
41.33-28	20-25	42.28x19	13x24	43.32-28	11-17		



45.34-29	35-40	46.29-23	18x29	47.27-22	29-34	44.35-30	24x35
49.11-6	40-44	50.6-1	44-49	51.1x4	49x16	48.22x11	34-39
53.18-27	11x33	54.27-43	8-12	55.43x7	25-30	52.4-18	16-11
57.21-16	30-35	58.48-43	28-19	59.43-39	19-14	56.26-21	33-28
61.16-11	37-48	62.39-33	48-37	63.11-6	37-41	60.7-18	14-37
65.18-45	14-37	66.1-12	37-14	67.12-26	14-5	64.6-1	41-14
69.33-29	41-14	70.48-39	14-25	71.39-44	25-14	68.26-48	5-41
73.50-44	37-14	74.45-50				72.44-49	14-37



We notice that in several pictures young Tonny Sijbrands was always beside the great Baba Sy to take note of his games. Meanwhile Tonny had been revealed that year as a player of extraordinary talent and had already become small league champion of the C.D.A club in Amsterdam, which was motive enough for the organizers to promptly include him in the main league. Actually, at 12 years of age Tonny Sijbrands<sup>50</sup> was a player of the first division. Back then Baba Sy still did not know how to write and Tonny Sijbrands was the one who took notes of the Senegalese's games while learning something about his favorite.



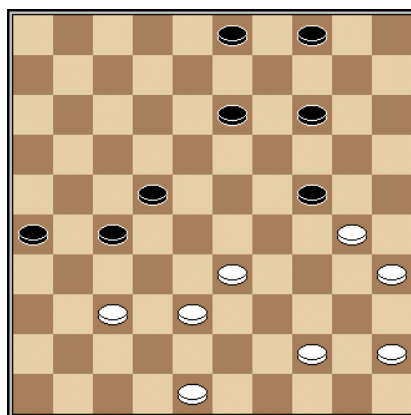
**Baba Sy in a match against Claude Gournier January 1 1962**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3535**  
**Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**

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<sup>50</sup> Het Damspel Magazine 1, 2006. Pages 6-9. Quote on page. 6

In 1961 Tonny Sijbrands was introduced by his father to Leen de Rooy, Holland's Youth Champion of 1960 who had founded the checkers club for young adults in Amsterdam. Tonny quickly became a small league champion of Amsterdam in 1962, with the fabulous score of 19 points in 10 matches; really incredible.

Claude Gournier	- Baba Sy	1-1	01-01-1962
Lucas Bols			
1.32-28 18-23	2.33-29 23x32	3.37x28 20-24	4.29x20 15x24
5.41-37 12-18	6.46-41 17-21	7.39-33 21-26	8.31-27 7-12
9.44-39 11-17	10.27-22 18x27	11.28-23 19x28	12.33x31 14-19
13.39-33 10-14	14.49-44 12-18	15.44-39 1- 7	16.50-44 7-12
17.31-27 5-10	18.37-32 17-21	19.41-37 2- 7	20.33-28 7-11
21.38-33 12-17	22.43-38 17-22	23.28x17 11x31	24.36x27 19-23
25.33-29 24x33	26.39x19 14x23	27.38-33 6-11	28.47-41 11-17
29.33-28 9-14	30.28x19 14x23	31.32-28 21x32	32.28x19 13x24
33.37x28 18-22	34.41-37 22x33	35.34-29 16-21	36.29x38 21-27
37.38-33 8-13	38.40-34 10-14	39.42-38 17-22	40.34-30



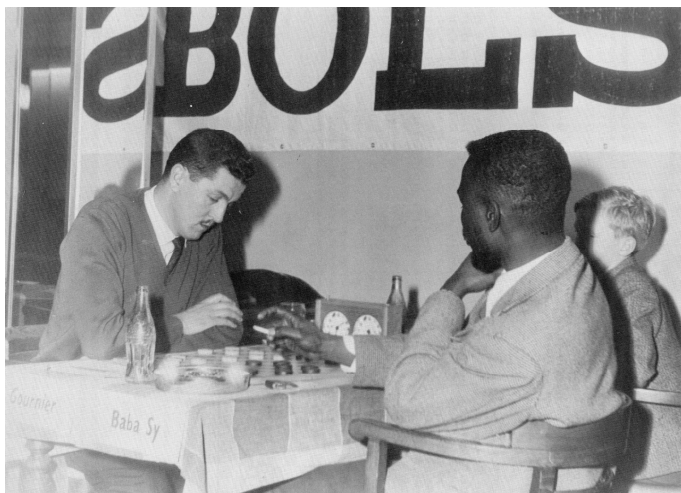
				13-19
41.48-42 3- 9	42.45-40 27-31	43.38-32 31-36	44.44-39 9-13	
45.32-28 24-29	46.33x24 22x44	47.40x49 26-31	48.37x26 36-41	
49.42-37 41x32	50.26-21 32-37	51.21-17 37-42	52.17-11 42-47	
53.11- 7 47x15	54. 7- 1 15-20	55. 1- 7 4-10	56. 7- 1 20-47	
57. 1- 7 47-33	58. 7-12 33-20	59.12- 7 10-15	60. 7-12 20-47	
61.12-45 47-33	62.45-40 33-20	63.40- 7 20-42	64. 7-40 42-33	
65.40- 7 15-20	66. 7-45 33-47	67.30-24 20x29	68.45x25	



**Baba Sy in a match against Claude Gournier January 1 1962**  
**Tonny Sijbrands recording the match**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3537**



**Baba Sy in a match against Claude Gournier January 1 1962**  
**Tonny Sijbrands recording the match**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3538**  
**Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**



**Baba Sy in a match against Claude Gournier January 1 1962**  
**Tonny Sijbrands recording the match**  
**Photo: Le Grand Livre de Baba Sy<sup>51</sup>**



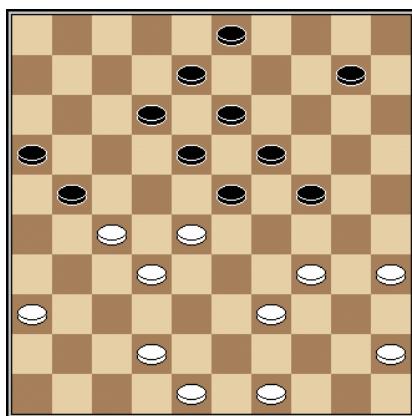
**Geert van Dijk in a match against Joop Verheij January 1st 1962**  
**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3536**  
**Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**

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<sup>51</sup> **SIJBRANDS, Ton** (1989) Le Grand Livre de Baba Sy. Editions “Dammen”, pág. 82

Bernard Devauchelle - Abdul Mansur Kouate 1-1 01-01-1962  
Lucas Bols

1.33-29	19-23	2.35-30	14-19	3.40-35	10-14	4.44-40	20-24
5.29x20	15x24	6.50-44	5-10	7.30-25	10-15	8.34-30	17-22
9.31-27	22x31	10.36x27	11-17	11.39-33	7-11	12.44-39	1- 7
13.41-36	24-29	14.33x24	23-28	15.32x23	18x20	16.39-33	19-23
17.37-32	14-19	18.25x14	19x10	19.46-41	10-14	20.41-37	15-20
21.33-28	14-19	22.30-25	13-18	23.25x14	9x20	24.43-39	17-22
25.28x17	11x31	26.36x27	8-13	27.47-41	20-24	28.41-36	6-11
29.40-34	11-17	30.37-31	17-21	31.31-26	2- 8	32.26x17	12x21
33.38-33	7-12	34.33-28	4-10				



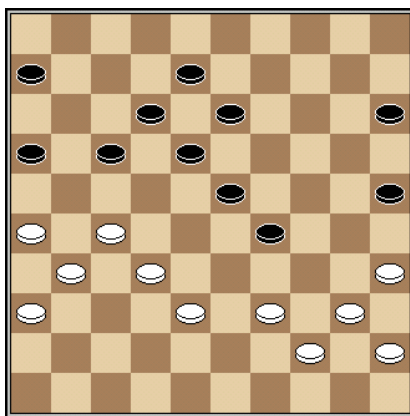
			35.27-22	18x47	36.45-40	23x32
37.39-33	47x29	38.34x 5	32-38	39. 5-41	12-18	40.40-34
41.41x 5	18-23	42. 5x43	21-27	43.43x21	16x27	44.49-43
45.43-38	8-12	46.48-42	9-14	47.34-29	24x33	48.38x29
49.35-30	18-22	50.29-23	27-32	51.23-18	22x13	52.30-24
						14-19

Baba Sy  
Lucas Bols

- Tammo Aeilkema

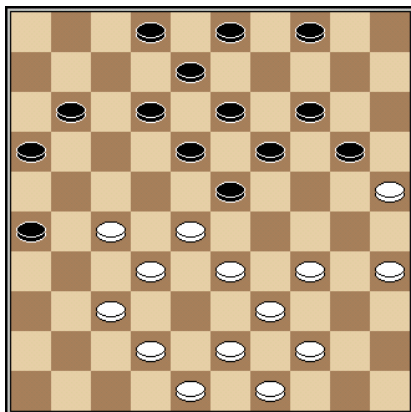
1-1 02-01-1962

1.32-28 18-23	2.33-29 23x32	3.37x28 19-24	4.39-33 14-19
5.41-37 20-25	6.29x20 25x14	7.37-32 12-18	8.46-41 7-12
9.41-37 15-20	10.44-39 10-15	11.50-44 20-24	12.34-30 18-23
13.30-25 12-18	14.40-34 8-12	15.31-26 1- 7	16.37-31 14-20
17.25x14 9x20	18.34-29 23x34	19.39x30 2- 8	20.44-39 18-23
21.30-25 4- 9	22.25x14 9x20	23.42-37 20-25	24.47-42 17-22
25.28x17 11x22	26.32-27 12-18	27.37-32 5-10	28.49-44 15-20
29.39-34 10-15	30.34-29 23x34	31.33-28 22x33	32.38x40 8-12
33.42-38 3- 8	34.43-39 7-11	35.39-33 19-23	36.48-43 24-29
37.33x24 20x29	38.43-39 11-17		



			39.39-33 17-21	40.26x17 12x21
41.33x24 21-26	42.44-39 26x28	43.39-33 28x39	44.27-22 18x27	
45.35-30 25x34	46.40x 9 8-13	47. 9x18 39-44	48.45-40 44x35	
49.18-13 35-40	50.13- 8 40-44	51. 8- 3		

Joop Verheij	- Baba Sy	0-2	02-01-1962
Lucas Bols			
1.32-28 18-23	2.33-29 23x32	3.37x28 20-24	4.29x20 15x24
5.41-37 12-18	6.39-33 17-21	7.37-32 7-12	8.31-26 10-15
9.26x17 12x21	10.36-31 21-26	11.44-39 26x37	12.32x41 1- 7
13.41-37 7-12	14.37-32 11-17	15.46-41 6-11	16.50-44 17-21
17.41-37 21-26	18.32-27 5-10	19.37-32 14-20	20.42-37 10-14
21.34-30 18-23	22.47-42 13-18	23.30-25 9-13	24.40-34 24-29
25.33x24 20x40	26.45x34 15-20	27.38-33	



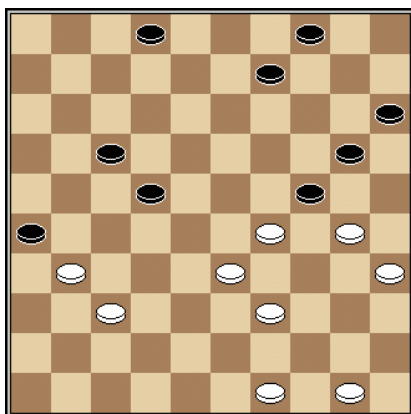
29.25x14 13-19 30.14x23 18x47 19-24 28.28x10 4x15



Baba Sy interviewed for Dutch television by Jan Cottaar during 3rd Lucas Bols tournament, January 2nd 1962 (Photo FMJD)

Abdul Mansur Kouate - Claude Gournier 2-0 02-01-1962  
 Lucas Bols

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.34-30	14-19
5.30-25	17-21	6.25x14	19x10	7.33-29	23x34	8.40x29	10-14
9.45-40	14-20	10.40-34	5-10	11.38-33	10-14	12.42-38	14-19
13.31-26	21-27	14.32x21	16x27	15.41-37	19-24	16.37-32	11-16
17.32x21	16x27	18.46-41	6-11	19.41-37	1-6	20.38-32	27x38
21.43x32	13-19	22.47-41	9-13	23.48-43	19-23	24.32-28	23x32
25.37x28	11-17	26.34-30	7-11	27.30x19	13x24	28.41-37	17-21
29.26x17	11x22	30.28x17	12x21	31.43-38	3-9	32.36-31	21-26
33.39-34	6-11	34.44-39	18-22	35.38-32	11-17	36.32-27	8-13
37.27x18	13x22	38.34-30					



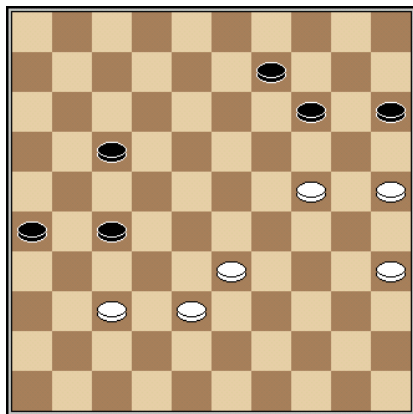
		2-8	39.30x19	9-13	40.29-23	13x24
41.23-18	22x13	42.37-32	26x28	43.33x11	8-12	44.39-34
45.34-30	24-29	46.30-25	29-33	47.25x14	15-20	48.14x25
49.11-6	12-17	50.6-1	22-28	51.49-43	17-21	52.1-18
53.43-39	33x44	54.50x39	4-10	55.18-27		



Tammo Aeilkema - Abdul Mansur Kouate  
Lucas Bols

1-1 02-01-1962

1.32-28	19-23	2.28x19	14x23	3.37-32	10-14	4.41-37	5-10
5.34-29	23x34	6.40x29	14-19	7.46-41	10-14	8.32-28	17-22
9.28x17	11x22	10.37-32	19-24	11.41-37	14-19	12.32-27	6-11
13.37-32	11-17	14.31-26	22x31	15.26x37	17-21	16.44-40	1- 6
17.47-41	21-26	18.39-34	19-23	19.32-28	23x32	20.37x28	18-22
21.28x17	12x21	22.41-37	7-12	23.34-30	12-18	24.30x19	13x24
25.40-34	9-13	26.50-44	6-11	27.44-40	11-17	28.34-30	17-22
29.30x19	13x24	30.40-34	3- 9	31.43-39	9-13	32.34-30	13-19
33.39-34	20-25	34.29x20	25x14	35.30-25	8-13	36.34-30	22-27
37.37-32	2- 8	38.45-40	8-12	39.30-24	19x30	40.35x24	12-17
41.40-35	17-22	42.32-28	4- 9	43.28x17	21x12	44.33-29	12-17
45.38-33	27-31	46.36x27	18-23	47.29x18	13x31	48.42-37	31x42
49.48x37	16-21	50.49-43	21-27	51.43-38			



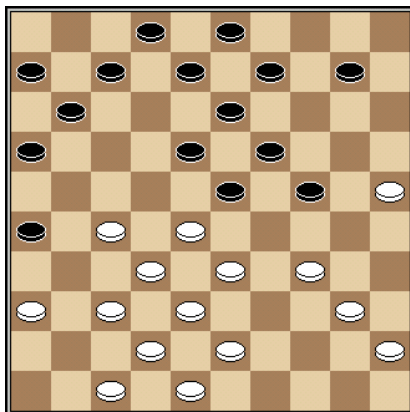
				17-22	52.37-32	9-13
53.32x21	26x17	54.38-32	17-21	55.32-28	22-27	56.28-23
57.25-20	14x25	58.23-19	13-18	59.19-14	31-36	60.14- 9
61. 9- 4	36-41	62. 4-31	21-26	63.31-48		18-23

Baba Sy

- Piet Bakhuizen 2-0 03-01-1962

Lucas Bols

1.32-28	18-23	2.33-29	23x32	3.37x28	19-24	4.39-33	14-19
5.41-37	20-25	6.29x20	25x14	7.37-32	17-21	8.46-41	19-23
9.28x19	14x23	10.44-39	12-18	11.41-37	10-14	12.50-44	5-10
13.35-30	7-12	14.30-25	1- 7	15.34-29	23x34	16.40x29	14-19
17.33-28	10-14	18.39-33	19-24	19.29x20	15x24	20.44-40	14-19
21.43-39	18-23	22.31-27	21-26	23.49-43	12-18	24.39-34	4-10



25.34-29	23x34	26.40x20	19-23	27.28x19	13x15	28.32-28	8-13
29.37-32	13-19	30.36-31	26x37	31.42x31	18-23	32.43-39	10-14
33.39-34	2- 8	34.34-30	14-20	35.25x14	9x20	36.30-25	20-24
37.25-20	23-29	38.47-41	7-12	39.31-26	3- 9	40.41-37	12-18
41.27-21	16x27	42.32x21	18-23	43.37-32	11-16	44.21-17	16-21
45.28-22	21x12	46.22-18	12-17	47.18-12	6-11	48.12x14	19x10
49.48-42	11-16	50.32-27	17-22	51.27x18	23x12	52.42-37	12-18
53.37-32	24-30	54.33x35	15x24	55.32-28	10-14	56.45-40	14-20
57.40-34	20-25	58.38-33	18-22	59.28x17	16-21	60.17-12	21-27
61.33-28							



**Very relaxed and confident Baba Sy in his first place at the Lucas Bols Tournament, on 3 January 1962 in a match against Piet Bakhuizen.**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3633**

**Photographer: Jac. de Nijs**



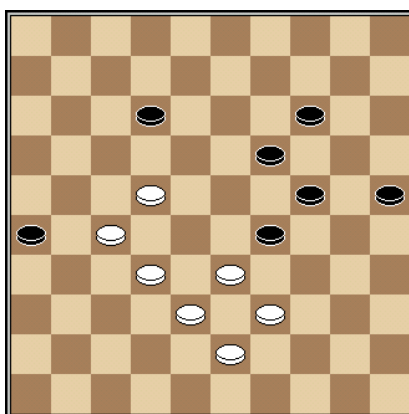
**Baba Sy in a match against Piet Bakhuizen January 3 1962**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3635**

**Photographer: Joop van Bilsen**

Geert van Dijk	-	Baba Sy	1-1	03-01-1962
Lucas Bols				
1.31-27 17-21	2.33-28 19-23	3.28x19 14x23	4.38-33 21-26	
5.35-30 11-17	6.30-25 7-11	7.25x14 10x19	8.40-35 5-10	
9.44-40 10-14	10.35-30 1- 7	11.30-25 17-21	12.50-44 11-17	
13.34-30 7-11	14.30-24 19x30	15.25x34 14-19	16.34-30 15-20	
17.30-25 20-24	18.43-38 2- 7	19.33-28 17-22	20.28x17 11x31	
21.36x27 9-14	22.38-33 23-29	23.33-28 18-23	24.42-38 7-11	
25.47-42 12-18	26.41-36 8-12	27.39-33 12-17	28.44-39 17-22	
29.28x17 11x31	30.36x27 6-11	31.33-28 11-17	32.39-33 4- 9	
33.49-43 14-20	34.25x14 9x20	35.40-34 29x40	36.45x34 3- 9	
37.46-41 9-14	38.41-36 20-25	39.27-22 18x27	40.37-31 26x37	
41.42x11 16x 7	42.36-31 21-26	43.31-27 7-12	44.43-39 13-18	
45.48-43 23-29	46.34x23 18x29	47.28-22		

And in this position both players didn't want to play anymore and decided to a draw.





**Baba Sy against Geert van Dijk. Photograph: FMJD**

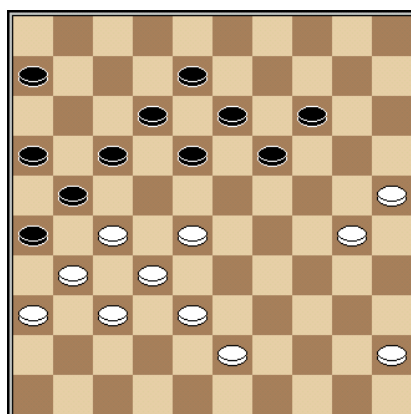


**Baba Sy never lacked fans. Picture from January 3 1962  
Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3630  
Photographer: Jac. de Nijs**

Piet Bakhuizen - Abdul Mansur Kouate 1-1 03-01-1962

Lucas Bols

1.34-30	19-23	2.30-25	17-22	3.33-29	23x34	4.40x29	20-24
5.29x20	15x24	6.32-27	11-17	7.37-32	17-21	8.31-26	22x31
9.26x37	6-11	10.39-33	14-19	11.44-39	11-17	12.50-44	10-14
13.32-28	7-11	14.37-31	21-26	15.41-37	18-23	16.37-32	26x37
17.42x31	12-18	18.31-27	17-21	19.46-41	5-10	20.41-37	10-15
21.44-40	14-20	22.25x14	9x20	23.47-42	4- 9	24.40-34	24-29
25.33x24	20x40	26.45x34	15-20	27.38-33	11-17	28.34-30	20-24
29.43-38	8-12	30.37-31	21-26	31.42-37	17-21	32.49-43	9-14
33.39-34	1- 6	34.30-25	2- 7	35.43-39	7-11	36.48-43	11-17
37.35-30	24x35	38.33-29	35-40	39.34x45	23x34	40.39x30	3- 8



41.27-22	18x27	42.31x11	6x17	43.45-40	12-18	44.40-35	18-22
45.38-33	22-27	46.43-38	17-22	47.28x17	21x12	48.32x21	26x17
49.30-24	19x30	50.35x24	12-18	51.33-28	17-21	52.38-33	21-27
53.28-22	18-23	54.22x31	23-29	55.37-32	29x27	56.31x22	8-12

Without a doubt the presence of foreign checker players at the event was due to the success reached by this tournament. Baba Sy's curious style stood out for its great productivity in points. His quick vision and exactitude of composition placed his adversaries in unsettling difficulties. Sensational was the victory here of Kouaté against Geert van Dijk, and also the fact that Kouaté fell from his chair with a dramatic and rowdy hit in the lounge of the Krasnapolsky hotel in Amsterdam. Kouaté as well as Baba Sy had problems in the beginning with Amsterdam's weather so they wrapped special clothes over their socks to avoid getting their feet cold: they did the same thing at night in their hotel room, otherwise they wouldn't have been able to sleep. Kouaté was always a Senegal champion between the years 1946 – 1957 until Baba Sy came along; a player who first was already making money daily in Senegal by playing checkers. After this date nobody wanted to play against Baba as he always won.



**Baba Sy winner of the Lucas Bols Tournament in his prime. This picture is from January 3 1962 at the end of the Tournament.**

**Photo: Nationaal Archief-Beeldbank, 913-3631**

**Photographer: Jac. de Nijs**



**Baba Sy and his prize during the tournament Lucas Bols, January 3 1962 Photo: Het Damspel, N° 1, 2006, page 6**



**Baba Sy thinking  
Lucas Bols, 1962  
Photo: Sietse Nagel**



**Baba Sy thinking  
Lucas Bols, 1962  
Photo: Sietse Nagel**



**Baba Sy smoking  
Lucas Bols, 1962  
Photo: Sietse Nagel**





**Baba Sy smoking  
Lucas Bols, 1962  
Photo: Sietse Nagel**



**Baba Sy smoking  
Lucas Bols, 1962  
Photo: Sietse Nagel**

Very tragic was the unexpected death by carbon monoxide of charming Bernard Devauchelle (1936-1962) after returning to his home in Amiens. It was a great loss for the checker world and overall for his friends in France where it had been planned to have him as a player in future. This player had finished in the first place with the same points as Hisard at the France championship of 1957. However, the Sonnenborn-Berger system determined that Hisard could call himself champion. At the France championship of 1958 he got the second place among other players. His modest third place at the Lucas Bols Tournament is due to him not being able to practice enough because of military obligations.



**Bernard Devauchelle  
Photo: Het Damspel 1, 1962**

# CHAPTER 13

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